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Stephen Hales,

vicar of Teddington in Middlesex, made the important discovery that plants absorb part of their food from the air. Hales invented artificial ventilators and numerous other mechanical contrivances as well as studying animal and plant physiology. From this, he turned his attention to chemistry, and in his principal book "Vegetable Staticks", published in 1727, he stressed the importance of accurate weighing and measuring in chemical operations. Unfortunately, his quickness to see the need for accurate measurement restricted his vision in other directions. Having observed that plants breathe in large quantities of air, he concluded that this air could be recovered, and proceeded to distil, in a gun barrel, a great number of miscellaneous substances including tallow, hog's blood, peas, oyster shells, tobacco, a fallow deer's horn, camphor, beeswax and honey.

He collected the gases he obtained and made accurate calculations to show the proportion they bore by weight to the original substances. There is no doubt that Hales unwittingly prepared crude samples of many important chemicals, but he was so engrossed in weighing and measuring, at the expense of accurately observing the substances under experiment, that he failed entirely to appreciate the significance of much of his own work. He dismissed the various gases he had prepared as "air". He died in 1761, and was honoured by being buried in Westminster Abbey.

ICI

'My! What a big girl, coming over alone!'

Alone on a Speedbird—with thirty-five fellow passengers for company, and a stewardess who is friend and looker-after in one? Quite a few children have travelled the Speedbird routes 'alone' to that extent. And liked it? Yes—in their unromantic way. They were comfortable, frequently sleepy, very well fed and soon there. Which on sober thought, is a definition of perfect travel.

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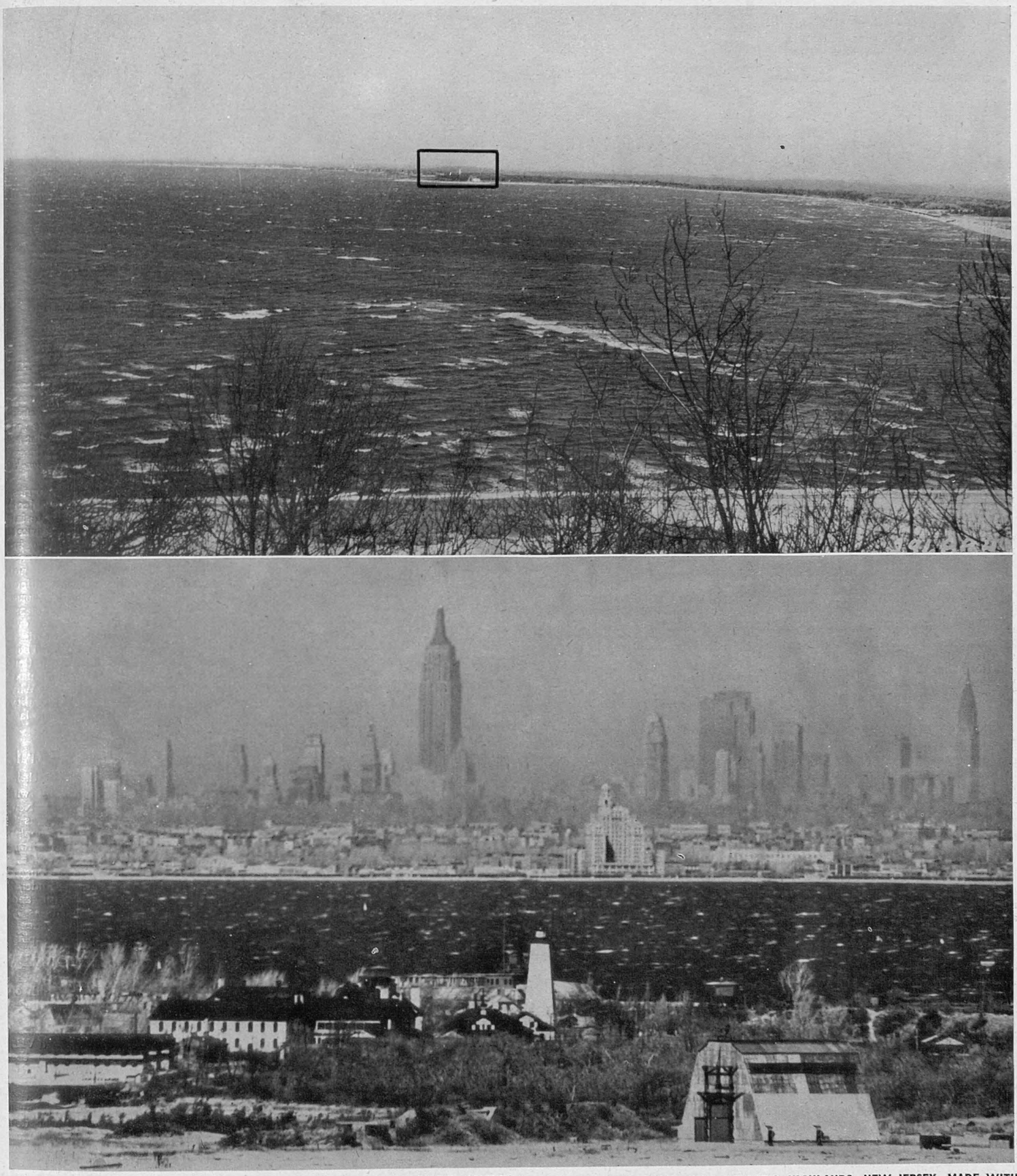

AMERICA REVEALS THE POWERS OF GERMANY'S LONG-RANGE CAMERA—A VIEW OF NEW YORK FROM ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS, NEW JERSEY, MADE WITH A NORMAL CAMERA (*top*) **AND THE FOCAL POINT OF THE SAME VIEW MADE WITH A CAPTURED GERMAN "LONG TOM"** (*below*) **: This astonishing degree of detail of Manhattan was obtained from 26 miles. The "Long Tom" camera used for the picture is one of thirty made by the Carl Zeiss Company**

When the Germans had captured the Channel ports in 1940 and had firmly entrenched themselves along the north coast of France, they sought to probe the secrets of Britain's Channel defences with the aid of the "Long Tom," the latest long-range camera produced by the Carl Zeiss Company. The two contrasting pictures reproduced above reveal the extraordinary powers of this long-distance camera. The top view (taken with an ordinary camera) looks out from Atlantic Highlands, New Jersey, and across Sandy Hook Bay. The white object within the rectangle is probably Sandy Hook Light. Another 20 miles beyond lies Manhattan, a faint shadow in the distance. In the lower picture the powerful Zeiss lens looks from Atlantic Highlands to the famous New York skyline. Even the shadows on the waterfront buildings can be discerned. U.S. technicians are now working on the "Long Tom." They hope to improve it and to cut down its weight

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A LONDON NEWSLETTER

1, NEW OXFORD STREET, W.C.1.

Eleventh-hour Repentance.—It is fairly easy (and dangerous) to simplify the details of the political questions of the hour, and all day long the Press, the radio and partisan politicians engage in it for the "benefit" of a public which has forgotten (or never learned) how to think for itself. But it is entirely easy (and not dangerous) to simplify the broad effect on human beings of a sudden realisation of the meaning and dangers of major events. It is easy because those broad effects are invariably the same; it is not in political man to repent until the eleventh hour: he walks blind and deaf until the hands point to midnight. Then the scales fall from his eyes. The Czechoslovak coup produced in a few hours results which, if that coup had been deferred, would not have been achieved in two more years. The still-surviving democracies of Western Europe would still in 1950 have been exploring avenues for mutual defence against the new Hitlerism and, if the Americans had shown no impatience, probably for mutual economic co-operation also. Nothing but a hot blast from the crater-edge will halt modern *Homo sapiens* on his amble to damnation. If they hear not the "Moses and the prophets" of 1914 and 1939, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead. The Czech coup proved a Revenant with a vengeance; it was a direct blast from the crater. Within a fortnight, at home and in Europe, the nations still outside the New Newgate awoke out of sleep and, inside four days, had worked out with no petty objections or obstructions plans for mutual aid and defence. Within the same brief period, at home, the Socialist Government found itself on a new alignment, its crack divisions facing an urgent challenge from an unsuspected quarter. A month ago Communism in Britain was "no urgent problem." To-day along the old front line there are signs of fraternisation with the Tory enemy, in the face of the new menace far to the Left.

Man's Simplicity.—It is as simple as that. The simplicity of democratic man (if not of all mankind) is utter and invariable. Until he is almost over the edge, he will not see his danger until he is almost surrounded, he will not extend his ranks by co-operation with his neighbours. This is the argument of our history books for 200 years or more. It never varies. Democracy delights to use its tongue; it has no use for its eyes; it has long ceased to use its mind. In all this, there are two signs which afford a ray of hope. When Chamberlain brought back "peace for a long time" from Munich, he saw the need for instant rearmament, and something was done. But nothing was done worth mentioning among the Western Democracies to get together. To-day after "Prague," the tardy repentance has at least broadened. The second ray of hope is a question of time. Time still is the essence of any effective measures to halt the Communist advance; but as regards the possibility of World War III the situation is not as it was in 1938-39. Then the aggressor was equipped with all the latest weapons of war and ready to march. To-day the knowledge of America's strength and the uncertainty of America's atomic potential must give pause to an aggressor who may be still strong in Army corps, but is not yet recovered so far industrially as to be able quickly to switch over again to war production. Stalin doesn't want war. He wants his way. So did Hitler. Hitler did not understand that "wanting your way" too ruthlessly sets the juggernaut spinning and, once set spinning, it takes control. Neither does Stalin.

EX-KING MICHAEL REVEALS THE SECRETS OF THE ABDICATION—HE IS SEEN ARRIVING AT VICTORIA STATION LAST WEEK ACCOMPANIED BY HIS MOTHER, EX-QUEEN HELEN: On the extreme right of the picture, behind a reporter being held back by a police officer, is Lord Clarendon, who, by command of King George VI, met the Royal visitors and later saw them off at Waterloo Station, where they entrained for Southampton to join the liner "Queen Elizabeth." During his brief stay in London, ex-King Michael declared at a Press Conference, held at Claridges, that the Act of Abdication was imposed on him by force of a Government utterly unrepresentative of the will of the Rumanian people. The Royal Palace was surrounded by armed detachments, said the ex-King, and if he had not signed, the Ministers who delivered the Act informed him that he would have been held responsible for the bloodshed which would have followed as a consequence of his refusal to abdicate. Princess Anne of Bourbon-Parma did not travel with the Royal party. They will probably remain in the United States three weeks

Jan Masaryk.—Jan Masaryk is the son of the founder of the Czechoslovak Republic. A month ago (I fancy) if you had asked two out of three wizards in the Chancelleries of Western Europe for what Jan Masaryk *stood* in the politics of his country, the reply would have been unanimous: "He stands, a bulwark, for democracy." This is an example pointing to the truth of my last week's heart cry: "I don't understand politics. Who does?" Only yesterday, M. Masaryk declared that he looked forward to co-operation with the new Communist Government, praised the bloodless revolution, and approved the closest alliance with Soviet Russia. He told his new colleagues that he was "one of them," and had been so from the start of the coup. The bulwark for democracy was, after all, rather a gangway for Communism. At any rate, as a bulwark he was not worth the papier-mâché of which he was made. I have sometimes heard children mocking a bull from the right side of the fence. I have seen children treating that bull with far greater respect when crossing the field. And no doubt, with Russia and her neighbours, the nearer the bone, the sweeter the political meat. Communism advances across Europe on the wings of what we may euphemistically call "neighbourly love."

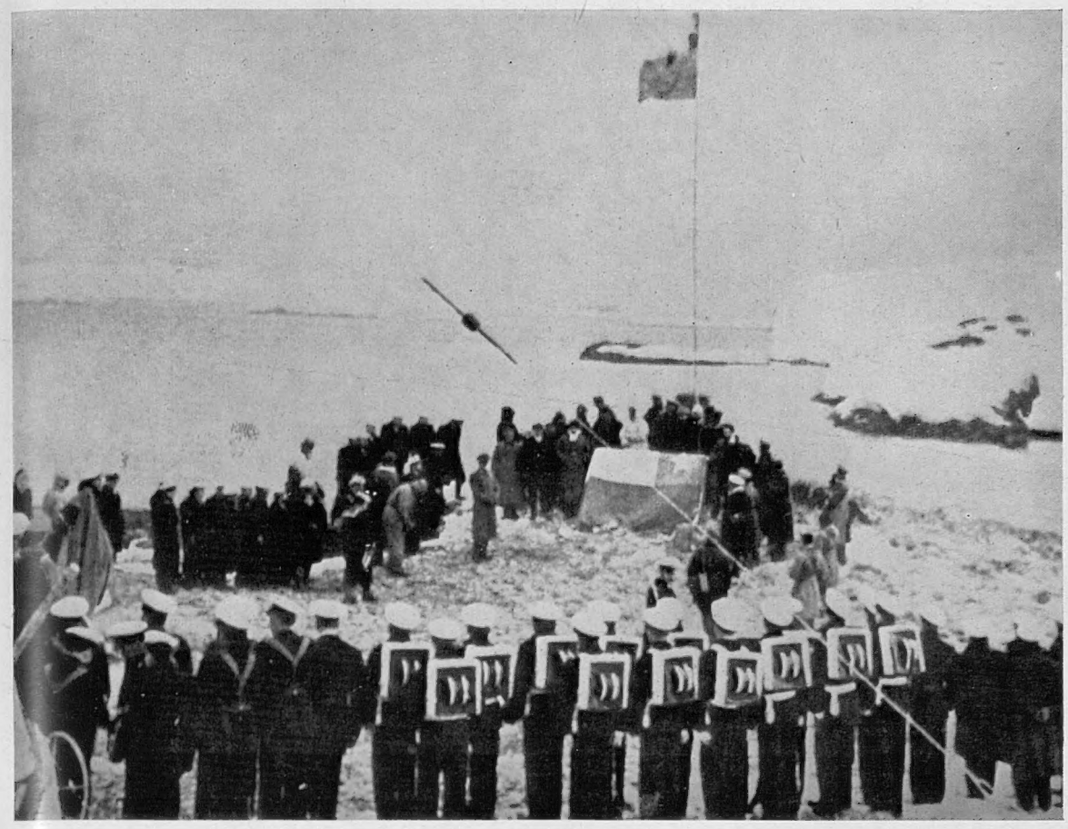
National Morality.—Sherlock Holmes turned to the agony column for the problems which his active brain required. My brain is a less remarkable engine which finds plenty of problems in that section of Parliamentary reports which is headed "Points from other replies." It is not seldom that I find chief significance in what the Press does not regard as Front Page news. One day, for example, this section announced that the new tax on pools was bringing in the satisfactory figure of £170,000 a week. And that the Railway Companies in 1946 paid out £2,500,000 in claims for parcels stolen during railway transport, the amount for 1938 having been only £180,000, or 1-14th of the current liability for railway dishonesty! This is a sharp parallel with Italy before Mussolini's march. It is not a solitary instance of our decline in morality. Every magistrate can adduce evidence as shocking. So can every householder and housewife. Whatever the appropriate Minister may declare to the contrary, to stimulate buyers, our national shop window is *bogus*. There is not much that we at home may buy but much of what we can and do buy is shoddy at super-luxury prices. Woollen and cotton clothing, just held together with tacking cotton, buttons which fall off after one day's wear. . . . And *coal*. . . . It is not an isolated instance from my own experience. All this winter my little doles of anthracite have yielded not less than 10 per cent. pure white chalk, covered with a thin coating of coal dust. This means riddling every two hours to keep the necessary draught, and for this filth we pay through the nose. I am aware that screening facilities are not what they were. But presumably the competition encouraged to achieve record output discourages the elimination of pure rubbish from the pithead dumps. As a nation of shopkeepers, whose very existence depends on our reputation for honest work and sound products, these instances of gross dishonesty are very disturbing.

The Greatest Danger of All.—But these are not isolated instances. Our economic plight is frightful. Our political danger was never more grave. For me, while I wait for the crash or crashes, I write my weekly piece and preside over my Bench of Magistrates. And in that last dreary and voluntary duty, one urgent danger drives out two more instant and obvious ones—the social danger implied in the lack of morality of young people to-day. If civilisation stands tottering on the crater edge because Universal bankruptcy, starvation, unemployment and world war are not to be ruled out; on the longer view, does not a social evil rule out the salvation even of a miracle of civilisation from its economic and political dangers? At every session in our little, peaceful country town, there are led into the dock, in batches or singly, young men (and girls and women) charged with larceny and other major or minor forms of crime or immorality. They are up for stealing wood, game, fowls, breaking into pavilions, stores, shops, pinching anything anywhere, wherever the chances of detection are long odds. There appear to be hundreds of young men, who own or part-own lorries, who roam the roads (petrol no object) looking for dumps of saleable material. And always there is a ready market. But the worst feature is not the increase in crime, but the fearful decrease in shame or repentance. I do not think one in twenty of these minor criminals leaves the dock with a sense of repentance or enters it with a sense of shame. The only definable evidence from their faces and words is a sense of grievance with Fate. Their sporting gamble did not come off that time. Bad luck, but better luck next time. Everybody's doing it. Why not they? I suppose national morality has never fallen lower than in the last two years,

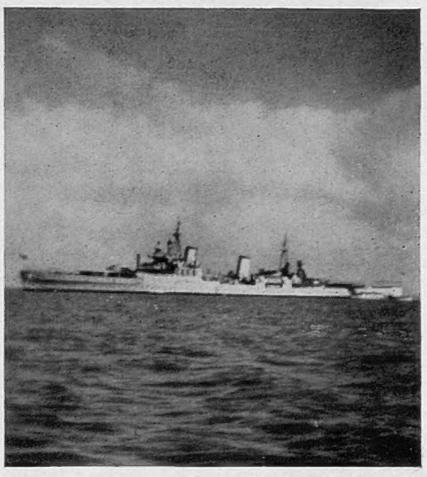
Royal Tour to Australasia.—The announcement that their Majesties and Princess Margaret will pay a visit to Australia and New Zealand early next year came as a pleasant surprise to all the peoples concerned. The invitation came from the Premiers not very long ago; the project had been in the air much longer. These Royal tours "down under" have invariably been successful, and enjoyed as much by the visitors as by the visited, and established precedents from past tours are likely to simplify the task of programme-making. King George V made two such tours—as a small boy with his brother in the *Bacchante* between 1879-82. Both of them were nearly shipwrecked 400 miles off King George's Sound. In 1901 he went again in the *Ophir* soon after the accession of King Edward VII, the prime object being to open the new Federal Parliament. He and the Duchess (Queen Mary) made a great impression and returned with the happiest memories of Australia and New Zealand. On his return he delivered his historic "Wake Up, England" speech at Guildhall. King George VI and Queen Elizabeth, as Duke and Duchess of York, visited these Dominions in 1927. The coming visit in 1949 will break new ground; it will be the first visit ever paid by the reigning sovereign to Australia and New Zealand. From now onwards plans and preparations will be set on foot. For such tours nine or ten months are not considered too long a time for the meticulous details to be worked out.

THE OLD STAGER

BRITAIN FACES THE CLAIMS OF CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICAN REPUBLICS



THE CHILEAN FLAG IS RUN UP ON THE GONZALEZ VIDELA COAST: This was the ceremony in Graham Land, which forms part of the British-owned Falkland Islands Dependencies, as President Gonzalez Videla of Chile, who is seen on the rostrum, officially claimed the territory on behalf of the Chilean Republic. This piece of coast the President has named after himself, and Chileans are now calling Graham Land, "Tierra de O'Higgins," after their liberator

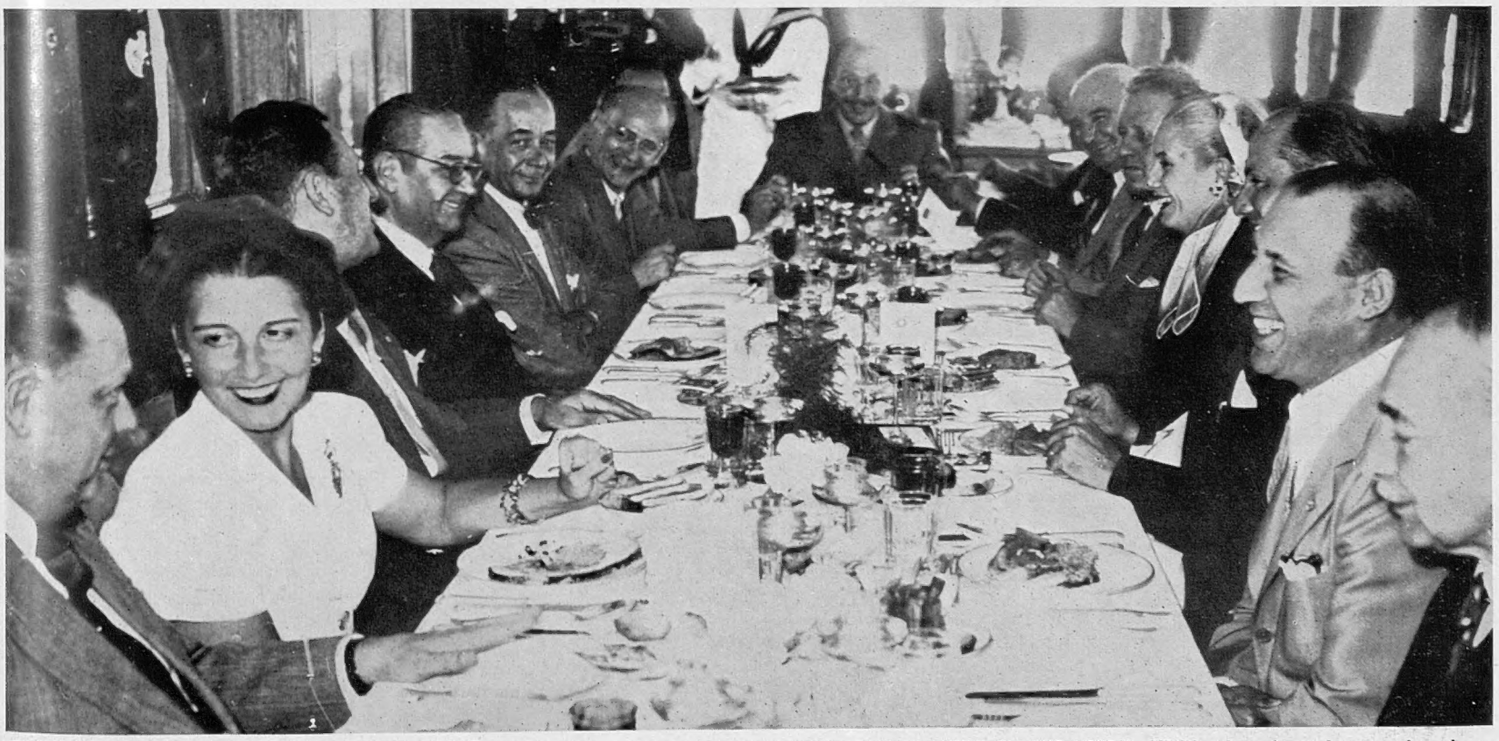


H.M.S. "SHEFFIELD" REACHES BELIZE: The British cruiser at anchor in the shallow waters off Belize, British Honduras, when she arrived to strengthen the British position in the colony following Guatemalan claims. As soon as British troops and marines landed in the colony they took up battle stations and staged manœuvres

PRESIDENT GABRIEL GONZALEZ VIDELA MAKES A GESTURE: The Chilean President with his daughter Silvia when he landed in British Antarctica to lay claim to the territory

With Britain's forces at a low ebb, the Latin Republics have seized the chance to do their share of twisting the lion's tail, and with Britain's finances similarly strained, Argentina has been able to take over the vast network of railways which once brought fat dividends to British shareholders. In the matter of the Guatemalan and Antarctic claims, Britain has remained polite but firm, and the despatch of the cruiser *Sheffield* to British Honduras and the cruiser *Nigeria* to Graham Land were both moves that, temporarily at any rate, produced the desired reaction. By the time *Nigeria* reached Graham Land President Videla had made his gesture and his departure

ARGENTINA NOW OWNS HER OWN RAILWAYS: Miguel Miranda (centre), President of the Argentine Economic Council, about to raise the Argentine flag at Retiro Station, Buenos Aires, during the official ceremony of transferring the once British-owned railways to the Argentine Republic

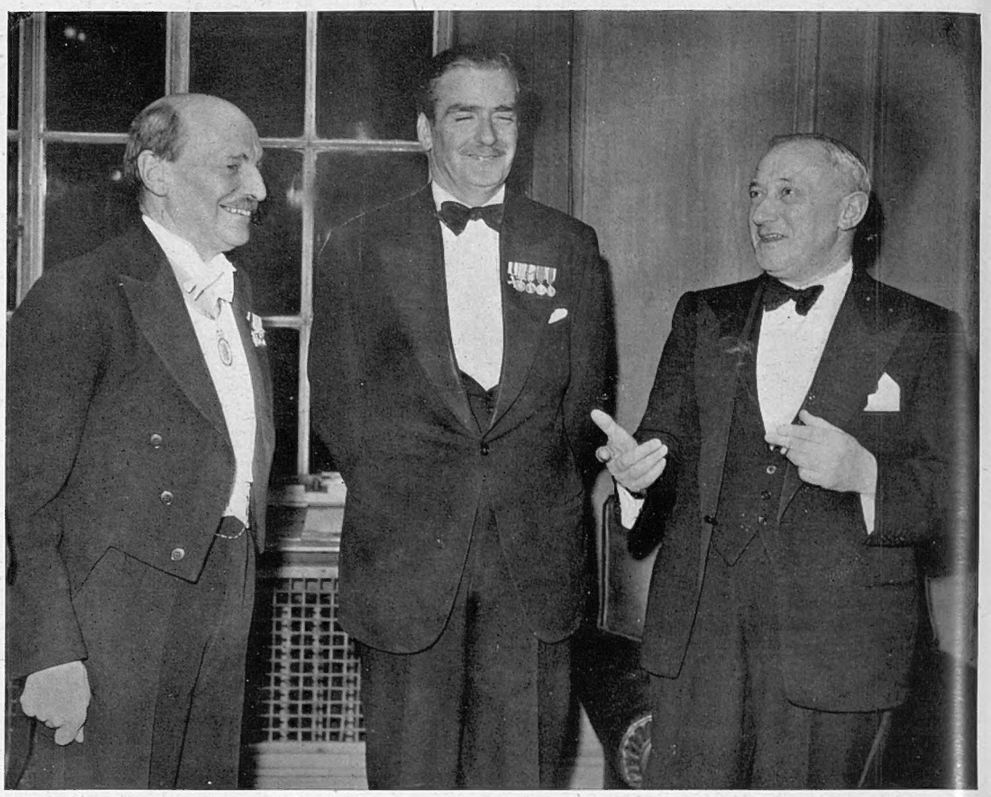


TWO PRESIDENTS MEET ON THE RIVER PLATE—ANTARCTICA AND THE CLAIMS AGAINST BRITAIN WERE ON THE VERBAL MENU: An animated scene aboard one of the Presidential yachts in the River Plate as President Peron of the Argentine (second from right) and President Berres of Uruguay (third from right) met at luncheon during talks on trade and foreign relations. Seated next to President Berres is Señora Peron. Second from left is Señora Berres, and fourth from the left is Dr. Castellanos, the Uruguayan Foreign Minister. Agreement was reached between the two Presidents regarding a trade treaty, and they are also said to have discussed at length the attitude of the South American Republics towards Argentinian claims to the Falkland Dependencie

THE GOVERNMENT Calls for MORE TERRITORIALS

And Opposition Lend Their Aid

LADY NATHAN, MR. SHINWELL AND THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON RECEIVE THE GUESTS: Last week's reception at County Hall, Westminster, was held in the interests of Territorial recruiting, and both the members of the Government and of the Opposition united in stressing the importance of Britain remaining prepared



THE DEPUTY LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION WITH PRIME MINISTER ATTLEE AND WAR MINISTER SHINWELL: As evidence of the paramount need for a strong Territorial Army, they met at the County Hall reception to Territorials. Both the Prime Minister and Mr. Eden wore miniatures of the medals they gained in the First World War. Mr. Attlee said that all were earnestly working and hoping for peace, but they knew that we must be prepared. They did not know what the next war, if it ever came, would be like. Certainly no war was very like the last. If there came another war it would come swiftly; there would be no time for training the citizen soldier. Mr. Shinwell said that the War Office was obtaining suitable accommodation and equipment for the Territorial Army and defining its precise function. The present strength was about 40,000 men. He did not share the view that the results of Territorial recruiting were disappointing having regard to the difficulties. Mr. Eden said that with world conditions as they were at present preparedness was a great contribution to peace. "If we could make it plain that while we menace no one we should defend ourselves, we should have made a lasting step on the road to peace." Gatherings on the same lines as that held at County Hall are now being staged throughout the country

EVERYONE TELLS MR. SHINWELL WHAT THEY THINK ABOUT THEIR ACCOMMODATION: The Minister of War, whose energetic tours of military establishments have brought to his notice a crop of complaints, is seen in this picture talking to a little girl at Tranby Croft Camp, Hull. The camp accommodates soldiers and their families recently returned from India. When the Minister spoke to this little girl she said she liked school, but did not like her school in a hut. Mr. Shinwell, as outspoken as ever, has made it plain that he considers the general standard of military accommodation in this country appalling

THE MONARCHY WITH A VACANT THRONE

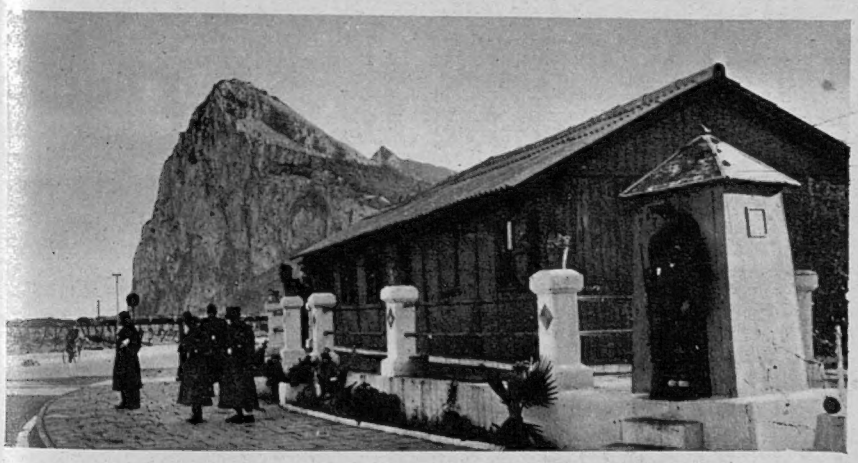
General Franco Calls Together Spain's Council of the Kingdom

In April 1947 General Franco, on the eighth anniversary of the Falangist victory in the Spanish Civil War, announced that Spain was to become a monarchy again, but until his own death or incapacity there would be no king, a Council of the Kingdom being set up meanwhile to assist him. It will be charged eventually, he declared, with the task of choosing his successor. By this astute move the Caudillo secured his own position in Spain and dashed the hopes of Don Juan, the Habsburg Pretender. Last October he carried his plans further by the revival of the Carlist titles of nobility (titles which had not been recognised by the former monarchy) and thus by implication he excluded Don Juan, son of the late King Alphonso XIII, from the vacant throne. A fortnight ago the Caudillo brought together his Council of the Kingdom for the first time, and pictures on this page show him with these leaders, who are drawn from many branches of Spanish life, after they had taken the oath of office in Madrid's historic El Pardo Palace. Prominent among them were the chiefs of the fighting services. Since last October the Spanish Press has referred to General Franco as "Chief of the Kingdom," and not, as hitherto, as Chief of State. Franco's Succession Law, which has been ratified by the Cortes, was put before the people in the form of a plebiscite in 1947, 12,628,983 people voting in favour and 643,501 against

GENERAL FRANCO, HEAD OF THE SPANISH REALM, WITH HIS NEWLY-SWORN-IN COUNCIL OF THE KINGDOM: In the centre of the picture the Caudillo stands with the Bishop of Madrid. Third from the left is Lieut.-General Ponte and next to the Bishop are Lieut.-General Juan Vigon and Admiral Francisco Bastarreche. On General Franco's right hand is Señor Esteban Bilbao, the President of the Cortes. The Council draws representatives from the Church, the judiciary and the three fighting services, and also includes four elected members of the Cortes, one nominated by the trade unions, one by local authorities, one by university rectors, and one by the professions

THE HEAD OF THE STATE HOLDS COURT IN THE EL PARDO PALACE: General Franco seen during the swearing-in of the new Council of the Kingdom. On his right hand is Don Alberto Martin Artajo, the Spanish Foreign Minister, who introduced members of the Diplomatic Corps. The Royal Hunting Chateau at El Pardo, where the ceremony took place, dates from the sixteenth century

THE BISHOP OF MADRID TAKES THE OATH AS A MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL OF THE KINGDOM: The Bishop is kneeling before the Cross as he repeats the oath at the inaugural ceremony at the El Pardo Palace, on the outskirts of Madrid



KEEPING GUARD ON THE GIBRALTAR-SPAIN FRONTIER: A Spanish sentry on duty outside the guard-house at La Linea. Two hundred yards across the No-man's-land lies the Rock, where many hundreds of Spanish workers go to earn their livelihood, lured over the border by higher wages and a higher standard of living. Both Spanish and British guards search the workers for contraband

On left—**BY BICYCLE ACROSS THE GIBRALTAR NO-MAN'S-LAND: Spanish workers returning to La Linea after a day's work in the British naval dockyards at the Rock. They are queueing up for the usual routine examination by the Spanish Customs authorities**

ANOTHER MODE OF TRANSPORT ON THE GIBRALTAR FRONTIER: A Spanish guard examining a fiacre for contraband on arrival at La Linea

THE GRAVEYARD OF THE BARGES IS ALSO A HIVE OF INDUSTRY: Craft of many kinds waiting on the Thames foreshore east of Gravesend Canal Basin prior to being repaired and converted on the neighbouring slipways. The little tideway port is doing an enormous amount of this repair work, mostly dealing with tugs, barges and coasters up to 500 tons. This is very much in contrast to Gravesend's other reputation as "the graveyard of the barges"

BUSY DAYS at the PORT of GRAVESEND

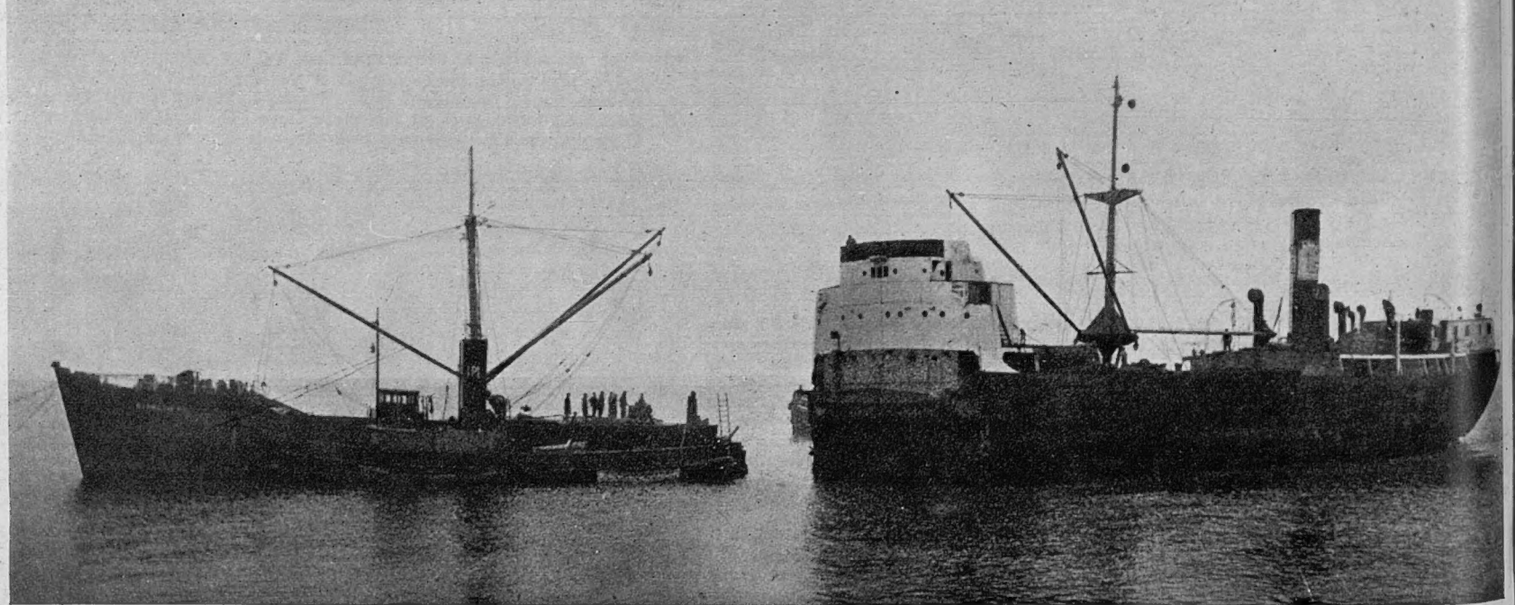
Converting and Repairing Tugs, Barges, and Coastal Steamers

"MARINER'S" END—A FAMOUS POWDER HULK IS BROKEN UP AT GRAVESEND: Men engaged in dismantling the "Mariner," which for more than eighty years rode at anchor at Tilbury, isolated from other shipping by reason of her dangerous cargoes. Built for the Royal Navy more than a century ago as a gun brig, "Mariner," after her voyages over the world's oceans, became a floating powder magazine. Ships not allowed to carry certain high explosives into the London Docks left them with the "Mariner" and collected them on their way out to sea

Amid the flashes of welding apparatus and the clang of hammers the slipways of Gravesend are at their busiest these days as the little ships which served us so well in the war are converted to peace-time use. One firm is employing no fewer than sixty men on this repair work, and there is a continual queue of ships waiting to go on the slipway. Many of the ships are ex-naval launches which have been bought for coastal work. There are also big Thames barges in need of hull repairs after their arduous wartime service on the London river, when for six long years there was neither the time nor the labour to repair them.

The breaking-up of the old powder hulk *Mariner* at Gravesend destroys an important link with the past. As the picture on the left shows, the *Mariner* is already reduced to a mere shell. Many of her still sound timbers will doubtless play their part in new construction and repair work in the Thames-side port

Gravesend is a port under the Port of London Authority and it is a Customs House and pilot station. Its neighbour, Tilbury, lying just across the river, has grown immensely in the past two decades, and from the great landing-stage go liners of 20,000 tons and more on regular Atlantic and Oriental routes

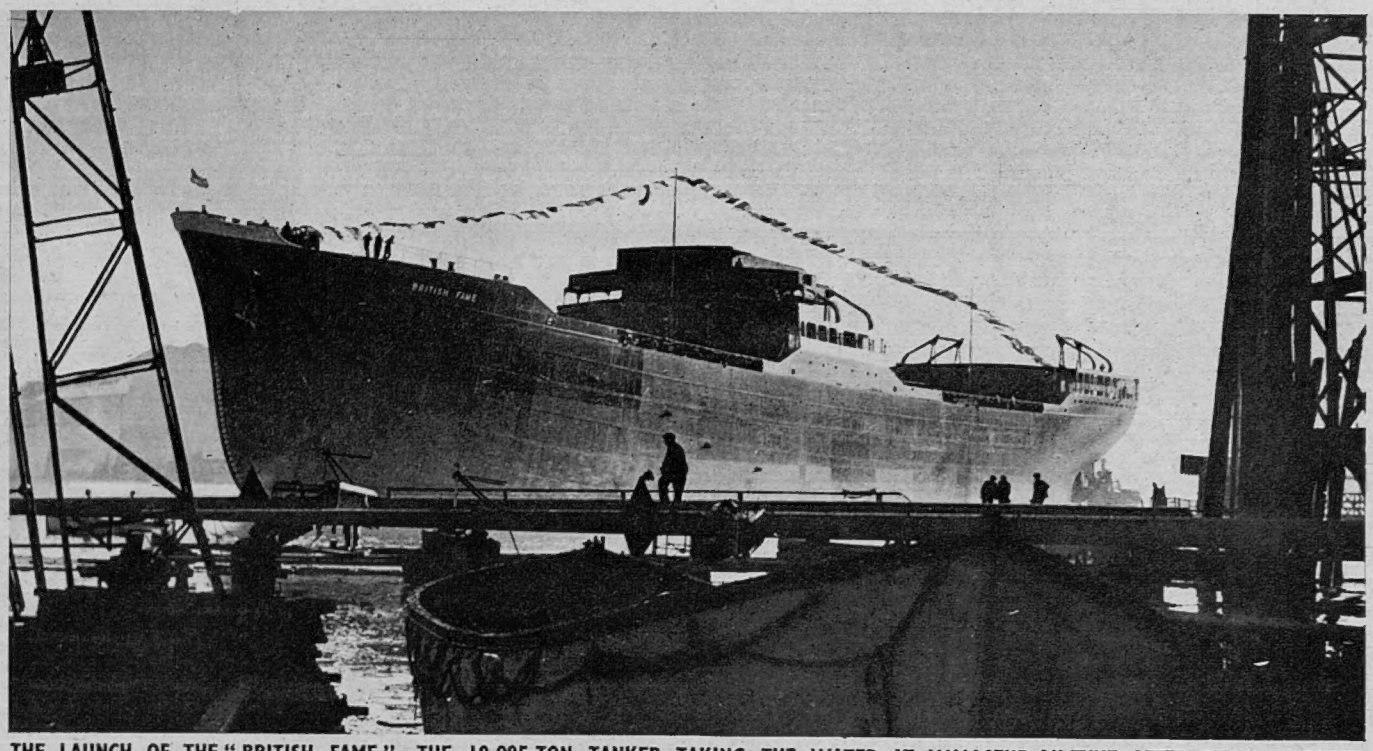


GETTING HER HOME BY HALVES: The first stage in the salvaging of the 2,852-ton steamship "Stancliffe," which broke her back last April on a sandbank in the Severn Estuary, was completed successfully when the stern half of the vessel was taken in tow to Cardiff. This picture was taken after the "Stancliffe" had been cut in two, and the stern (on right) had been made watertight for her journey to port. The bow end (on left) remains on the Sharpness sandbank

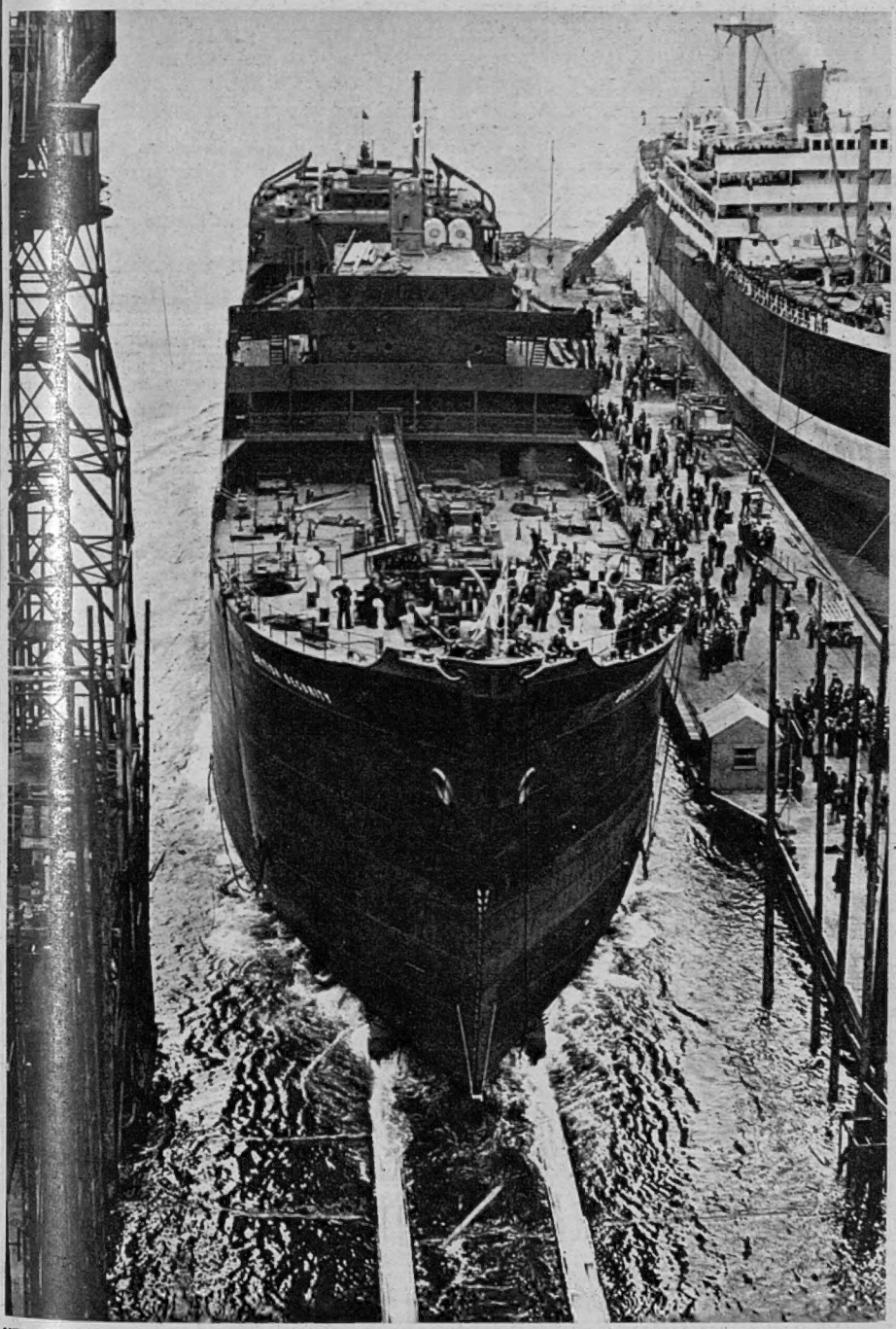
BRITAIN COMPLETES A YEAR OF ALMOST RECORD LAUNCHINGS

She Builds 56·9 per cent. of the World's Total Tonnage

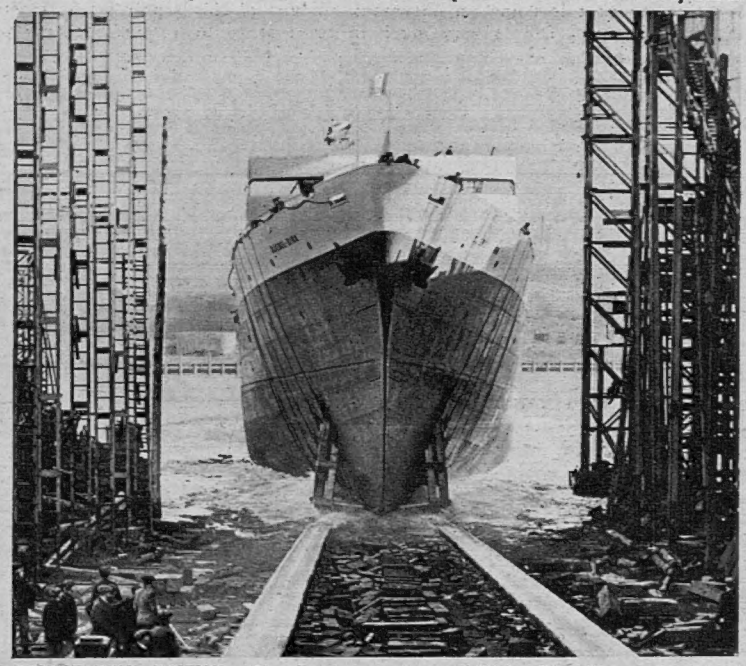
While French yards are struggling to revive their once enormous shipbuilding industry, Britain can claim that her post-war record in this direction is outstanding. The total shipping launched in Britain and Ireland last year was 1,202,000 tons gross. This figure was exceeded in 1942 under the impetus of the war effort when the total reached was 1,284,000. The 1947 figure represents 56·9 per cent. of the world's total shipbuilding, a percentage that has not been surpassed for many years. Of the total volume of construction, which, as the accompanying pictures show, still goes on apace, 380,000 tons, or 31 per cent., was for owners abroad



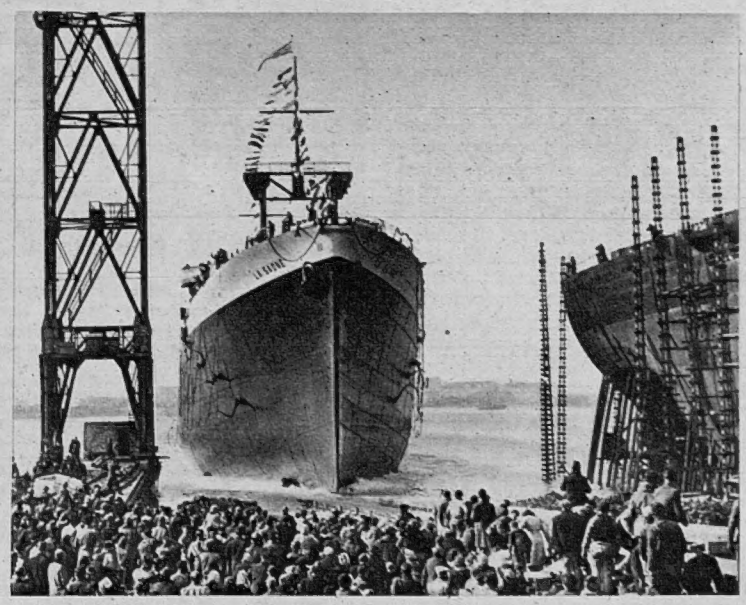
THE LAUNCH OF THE "BRITISH FAME"—THE 10,985-TON TANKER TAKING THE WATER AT WALLSEND-ON-TYNE AFTER BEING LAUNCHED FROM SWAN, HUNTER AND WIGHAM RICHARDSON'S YARD: The "British Fame," which was named by Mrs. Attlee, is one of a new fleet of tankers being built for the British Tanker Company to replace their war losses. The company is the shipping organisation of the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company, which lost forty-four ships by enemy action out of a total pre-war fleet of ninety-three



YET ANOTHER NEW TANKER GOES DOWN THE SLIPWAY—THE LAUNCH OF THE "BRITISH SECURITY" FROM HARLAND AND WOLFF'S BELFAST YARD: Like the "British Fame," which is shown in the top picture on this page, this new motor-driven vessel is being built for the British Tanker Company in order to replace war losses. The naming ceremony prior to the launch was performed by Madame Emami, wife of the Iranian Government Delegate to the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company. The new tanker is the latest of a series of tankers which Harland and Wolff have built for the British Tanker Company. A sister-ship, the *British Ranger*, was launched from the Company's Govan Yard early in December and is at present fitting out, while a further nine tankers for the same company are under construction or have to be laid down at Harland and Wolff's Belfast and Govan Yards. The vessel has a raked stem and cruiser stern



FRANCE BUYS BRITISH: The French steamer "Djebel-Dira" was launched recently at Swan Hunter's Neptune Yard at Walker-on-Tyne by Madame J. L. Massiera, wife of a director of the Compagnie de Navigation Mixte of Marseilles, the concern which will operate the vessel on behalf of the French Government. The vessel is designed to carry 3,300 tons deadweight, and will accommodate forty passengers. She is typical of the vessels now being constructed in British yards to meet the needs of companies with new ideas regarding the ideal ratio between passenger and cargo accommodation. Last year France was the biggest buyer of British shipping



A RED-LETTER DAY IN THE PORT OF DUNKIRK: The new French tanker "La Saone" gliding into the harbour after her naming and launching. The "Saone," which has a displacement of 15,200 tons, will be one of the biggest oil transports in the whole French Merchant Fleet

ITALY AND THE EAST-WEST TUG-OF-WAR

Will She Follow Czechoslovakia Into the Communist Fold?

By FERDINAND TUOHY

ITALY, we are told, is different from Czechoslovakia. The difference, apparently, is twofold. There are no Communists sharing the Italian Government, i.e., able to act "constitutionally" from within, as occurred in Prague; and Italy's police and Army stand ready to cope with Communist "Action Committees," as did not occur in Prague.

There seems to be a third difference between Czechoslovakia and Italy more important to the West than either of the two foregoing. Whereas there was no chance of the Czech Communists and their fellow-travellers securing a majority in a free election, Togliatti's Communists and their (Nenni-Socialist) fellow-travellers have got a chance of carrying the day on April 18.

On that fateful occasion some 25,000,000 can vote out of a population of 46,000,000. Of the two contending forces which will decide the issue, the Christian Democrats claim 7,000,000, while the Communists, etc., say they can muster 6,000,000. This leaves over 40 per cent. of the voting population unaccounted for—belonging to neither principal, or deciding at the last moment.

At the last election two years ago, the combined Socialists-Communists polled 39 per cent. of the votes. Since then, Saragat's Moderate Socialists have broken free. But they are a minority which, unhelped by our, or any other genuine, Socialists, has not done well with the Italian workingman, and the Togliatti-Nenni "Popular Democratic Front" is confident that it will pile up an additional 12 per cent. of the votes in spite of Saragat, giving it a victorious 51 per cent.

Pro-Moscow Italians are the more confident after a trial of strength at Pescara, when they reaped 48 per cent. of the votes in municipal elections and twenty-one of the forty seats. This led Red Fronters to enthuse as to how the land-hungry South will vote in April—that South which used to be swayed by religion and the monarchy. It also led the Christian Democrat *Risorgimento* to write of Pescara as "a typical town that represents a good cross-section of the Italian population," and to add: ". . . There can be little illusion that unless something is done, the national political elections will have similar results."

I remember Pescara as D'Annunzio's birthplace (the poet's memoirs begin "I appeared on earth at Pescara"), as a seaport on that *Amarissima* (most bitter sea) of which he sang. One might have thought that Pescara would long turn from anything Yugoslav, but, far from that happening, cargoes of arms are being surreptitiously accepted from Broz-Tito's opposite Adriatic shore. Italy's contiguity to the Panslav March of Stalin bears both ways. If it repels, it also attracts.

The Russians have been hardest of all on the Italians. They stood out for maximum reparations. They postponed the Peace Treaty on this account and thereby added salt to Italy's wound. They took all the Italian warships they could get. They drove the hardest bargain over Trieste. They have swallowed up an unknown aggregate of Italian prisoners of war. They demand the mandate for Libya. They fight tooth and nail such succour as is offered Italy by others of her ex-enemies.

It makes no difference. All the Russians have to do is to make a show of favouring Italian trusteeship under the United Nations of Italy's pre-war African colonies, and millions of Italians are ready to vote for the real despoilers of Italy, such being the magnetic power of the Communist dogma at this time. There is ample evidence, indeed, that Togliatti and Nenni are preparing to go to totalitarian revolutionary extremes for the privilege of being enfolded in the warm embrace of Tito and fellow-Slavs, although this is not so surprising in view of the solidity of Italy's Red Front in a surrounding sea of discord and antagonisms.

In Communism everything depends on Party membership. Fellow-voters are whipped up by every conceivable means in order to lend a "popular" semblance to events, but the Party members represent the core which is relied upon to get things done, and in Italy it numbers no fewer than 2,200,000, far and away the biggest total in Europe, outside Russia herself. They come alike from the industrial North and the agrarian South, from the Po Valley and from Sicily. The peasant element shows the biggest increase, relatively, and the most strident are the young, shouting for "Our '48!"

The young are being trained to street action by Luigi Longo, Communist leader and "military secretary," who is busy forming "Garibaldi Advance Guards" throughout Italy. With its Mussolinian ring, this appellation appeals to young men who once carried toy muskets as small boys in the heroic '30's. The original brigade paraded at Modena last September, wearing red handkerchiefs round the head. Now red shirts—Russian style—are showing more and more each day.

The Garibaldi Brigades must not be confused with the Action Committees which await orders (as they did at Prague) to take over every phase of the nation's activity and to liquidate and purge according to long-prepared lists. These Committees are formed of more mature Party members, and, more likely, are closer to Eugene Reale than to Longo. Former Italian Ambassador in Warsaw, Reale is the Italian who travels abroad for Cominform conferences, at which *coups* like Prague's are worked out in detail.

Reale latterly had talks with the Cominform "Cabinet" at Warsaw, after which he left for Prague, there to pick up the latest tips prior to regaining his native Italy.

In passing, Reale's travels again focus attention on the ease with which the Stalin conspiracy is being fostered without let or hindrance. In addition to being a conspiracy aimed at the internal affairs of other nations to the greater glory of Panslavism, these comings and goings of Communist leaders do not as much as mask exchanges of information which violate the defence of the Realm. For, with war at stake, so it is.

The various Communist leaders are allowed to cross all frontiers, arranging to act sympathetically in respect of this and that blow abroad. Take the support that Italy's Reds expect from large-scale action in neighbouring France, no small factor in their computations.

Of course, there are things demanded by the Communists, which should have been given long ago in a just society. But the methods adopted by the Reds, and foreshadowed for Italy, constitute such an annihilation of the rest of society, that the fight has to be to a finish. Many were edging towards Communism in divers lands, who to-day look upon the Kremlin's Hitlerite progress as a foul travesty of what Communism might have been. Slav-Communists care not a rap for the means employed, whereas to others they are everything.

"If there must be a battle," says Premier de Gasperi, "it is best to fight to-day and risk everything even if it costs us our heads. But there will be no Kerenskys among us."

Brave words, but the risk is of a lack of homogeneity on the anti-Communist side. As examples: a Right Wing has formed in Sicily, which is voting against the Christian Democrats; and again, the heavy intrusion of the priesthood into politics gave the Communists the opportunity to launch a "Culture Front" based on anti-clericalism, which at once claimed some of the most distinguished liberal names in the land.

Against this must be placed the effect of Vatican support of the Milan Cardinal Schuster's action in denying confessorial forgiveness of sins to those who vote Communist. Italy is still a widely Catholic country. Were the women's influence more pronounced, this Papal excommunication—for that is what it amounts to—would have greater effect. As it is, a large number of workers have seceded to an Italian equivalent of the *Force Ouvrière*. This has weakened the Italian Communists in the industrial North, but they have gained in the south.

And they gain again from lack of zeal among the Monarchists, 10,000,000 strong. While it is true that none of these will help the Communists, the Monarchists have not got their hearts in anything but the House of Savoy, and consequently they reduce what should be utmost concentration on the intensely active Communist phalanx.

De Gasperi cries out that he is defending the life of Italy, her spiritual life, her western tradition of civilisation, and that he is defending the country, too, from starvation; yet many Italians, bitter and frustrated, in the trough of the "morning after," are scarcely of a mood to think so very much of the West, of what it has brought to them, or to consider dollar injections so imperatively necessary as the Premier says.

No doubt these and other flaws account for so much being heard of Mario Scelba's police force of 135,000 hefties schooled to manhandle rather than to shoot. Sad to think that police may turn a democratic day, yet such a force as Home Secretary Scelba's may be precisely what has been lacking in the non-Communist countries swallowed by Stalin, whose agents saw to it that each successive police force was crippled from within, before they struck.

In a form of anticipatory self-defence the Italian police are enforcing with vigour a new law making it punishable not to inform them of known arms stores; so much so, that minor avalanches of arms and ammunition are piling up, everything from explosives to stilettoes.

All said, however, the principal hope of the West, as regards Italy, lies in the American tug. The Americans may not have been popular recently in Italy, but deep down in the people is the American tug, from the letter link between the Pope and President Truman, to the peasant of Calabria, with parts of his family sending home good dollars from the New World.

Can we in Western Europe add something to this American tug in the short time before the election? That, I take it, is what Mr. Eden meant by more than asking that Italy be not left out of our inmost calculations and arrangements at this hour.

By forgetting the stab in the back so quickly, and extending the hand of friendship to the Italians, the French merited well of Europe. We, for our part, scored by not taking the Italian warships. And we have woven economic and cultural ties with the new Republic. Yet, like the other victors, Britain has leeway to make up. Too quickly did we discard the Italians, as allies, after building hopes that never came to anything. We rendered £22,000,000 of Italian money unconvertible. We haven't sent coal.

To-day, when they think of the *Inglesi*, Italians think automatically of their late colonies. They are not in our giving! But, if we would help Italy to stay Western, she must be in the forefront of our thoughts when we think Europeanly—and Africanly.

CZECHOSLOVAKIAN FARM LABOURERS PARADE THROUGH THE STREETS OF PRAGUE: They are carrying a portrait of Mr. J. Duris, the Slovak Communist who retains his place as Minister of Agriculture in Premier Gottwald's new Cabinet and who will be responsible for the Government's share-the-land policy. Among the new Communist proposals before Parliament is one that no one may own land in Czechoslovakia unless they till it themselves

THE NEW SOVIET DRIVE IN FINLAND: General Savonenkov, the Soviet Ambassador to Helsinki, handed to President Passikivi the letter from Generalissimo Stalin asking for a mutual assistance pact between Soviet Russia and Finland

THE WORLD COURT AT LAST HEARS THE CORFU CHANNEL CASE — THE JUDGES OF THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE AT THE HAGUE MEET TO HEAR BRITAIN'S CHARGES AGAINST ALBANIA ARISING OUT OF THE DAMAGE CAUSED TO THE BRITISH DESTROYERS "VOLAGE" AND "SAUMAREZ" ON OCTOBER 22, 1946: Reading from left to right are the Judge-Delegates of Belgium, Poland, Mexico and France. In the centre is M. Guerrero (San Salvador), President of the Court, and on his left hand are the Delegates of Chile, the United States, Yugoslavia, Britain (Sir Andrew McNair), Egypt, Canada and Brazil

BRITAIN and ALBANIA Come Before the WORLD COURT

The Permanent Court of International Justice, now enjoying a new lease of life as an offshoot of the United Nations, tried its most momentous case at the end of February when the fifteen judges, each the recipient of a £4,500-a-year salary, met to hear Britain's charges against Albania over the mining of the Corfu Roads. At the time of writing, the Court's decision in this case is awaited with interest. In many ways it is a test case, for in the past the ultra-slowness of the Court's legislation has made it a target for critics. It has now to prove whether it is more effective under the United Nations than it was under the League

BRITAIN'S ATTORNEY-GENERAL PRESENTS THE BRITISH CASE: Sir Hartley Shawcross addressing the World Court at the opening of the proceedings. Seated on the left are other British counsel. Left to right—Mr. R. O. Wilberforce, Mr. M. E. Reed (a member of the Attorney-General's office), Mr. W. E. Beckett (Judicial Adviser to the Foreign Office), and Professor H. Lauterpacht (Professor of International Law at Cambridge University). Sir Hartley opened the proceedings by dealing with the point put forward for Albania that the Court was not competent to try the case as the two parties had not mutually agreed to submit it to the International Court

ALBANIA'S DELEGATION BEFORE THE WORLD COURT: On the right is the leader, Mr. Kareman Ylli, the Albanian Minister in Paris. The delegation stuck to the Albanian Government's story that Albania had not laid the mines that damaged British warships in the Corfu Channel. Mr. Hynsi Kapo declared that Albania did not know who had laid them, and that as she did not know they were there she could not be at fault in omitting to give notice of the presence of mines

SIR HARTLEY SHAWCROSS AND HIS TEAM: The British Attorney-General (right) and fellow-counsel at their table in the International Courtroom at The Hague

TOWARDS CLOSER UNION IN INDIA

States of Kathiawar and the Deccan Transfer Their Authority

The process of consolidating the new Dominion of India proceeds apace, and the inauguration of the United States of Kathiawar, a union of 450 States north of Bombay, marks an important stage in this development. Under a new covenant the rulers transfer power to the Indian Union, and become constitutional heads, surrendering sovereignty, jurisdiction and territory to unified administration for the entire region. Rulers of fifteen States in the Deccan have also signed covenants with the Dominion, and they have agreed to become part of Bombay Province. Both inaugurations are the subject of pictures on this page. The creation of the United States of Kathiawar is particularly gratifying, for in the autumn of last year these west-coast peninsula States almost became a battleground as Pakistan and India each sought their adhesion.

AN HISTORIC DAY IN THE CITY OF JAMNAGAR: The great crowd which assembled outside the palace of the Maharaja Jam Sahib of Nawanagar when this ruler was sworn in as Rajpramukh of the newly-created United States of Kathiawar. The Jam Sahib thus becomes titular head of 450 States in Western India, covering an area of 35,000 square miles, but power over the entire region is now transferred to New Delhi

THE MAHARAJA OF NAWANAGAR IS SWORN IN AS RAJPRAMUKH OF THE UNITED STATES OF KATHIAWAR: Standing beside the Maharaja is Mr. Patel, the Deputy Prime Minister of India, who accepted the covenants of the 450 States which now come under the central authority. The Maharaja, who was educated at Malvern, is an adopted son of Ranjitsinhji, of cricketing fame

BOMBAY'S PREMIER WELCOMES FIFTEEN STATES INTO THE INDIAN UNION: Mr. B. G. Kher addressing rulers of the Deccan States Agency at a meeting in Bombay at which the rulers affixed their signatures to individual agreements giving to the Dominion Government "full and exclusive authority, jurisdiction and powers for and in relation to the administration of Bombay Province." On the right of the table are the rulers of Ramdurg, Mudhol, Jath and Sangli. Seated next to Mr. Kher is Mr. Morarji Desai, Bombay's Revenue Minister. On the left of the table are the rulers of Bhor, Miraj and Phaltan. The States are all small in population, and Ramdurg has an area of 169 square miles. Bhor, lying in the Western Ghats in wild country, covers 910 square miles

THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF INDIA AT LUCKNOW: Earl Mountbatten, wearing civilian dress, seen with his aides and with Lady Mountbatten at the tomb of Sir Henry Lawrence, who is buried in the grounds of the Residency which he fought so bravely to defend during the celebrated Sepoy Mutiny of 1857

TOURING A BATTLEFIELD OF NINETY YEARS AGO: Earl Mountbatten, the Governor-General of India, accompanied by Lieut.-Colonel Andrews, Principal of the La Martinière College, during his visit to Lucknow Residency, where Sir Henry Lawrence made his famous stand against the sepoys. The Governor-General, who was accompanied by Lady Mountbatten, is seen about to descend into the taikhana, the rooms below the Residency building from which the wife of Corporal Brown, of the 32nd, reported that she could hear the pipes of Colin Campbell coming to the relief of the garrison

INDIA'S FAREWELL TO THE BRITISH ARMY

Our Last Troops Set Out From Bombay

India's farewell to the British Army could not have been more impressive. The slow march of the Somerset Light Infantry through the city culminated at the Apollo Bunder, the scene in the past of the arrival and departure of successive Viceroys and Governors. There the last British troops in the Indian Dominion passed beneath the Gateway of India, the monumental structure erected to commemorate the landing of King George V and Queen Mary in 1911. Before the march-past the Governor of Bombay read to the departing troops messages from Earl Mountbatten, the Governor-General of India, and Pandit Nehru, the Prime Minister of the new Dominion, and the final act was the embarkation of the Colour Party. Guards of honour were provided by units of the Royal Indian Navy and the Indian Army, including Mahrattas, Gurkhas and a detachment of Royal Sikhs in their red pugrees

SLOW MARCH TO THE GATEWAY OF INDIA: Men of the 1st Battalion Somerset Light Infantry—the last British troops to leave the Dominion of India—passing through Bombay on their final parade before embarking in the "Empress of Australia." Their departure was preceded by a farewell ceremony at the Gateway of India

THE COLOUR PARTY SETS OUT TO SEA FROM THE GATEWAY OF INDIA: *Right*—The Colours of the 1st Battalion Somerset Light Infantry borne in the final parade in Bombay, and (*left*) being taken out to the "Empress of Australia" in a launch of the Royal Indian Navy. The ceremonies in Bombay were watched by many thousands of spectators, and there was sustained cheering from the crowds as the men marched through the streets to the strains of "Auld Lang Syne"

LAST DAYS OF THE BRITISH ARMY IN PALESTINE—OUR TROOPS KEEP ON THE ALERT IN JERUSALEM ON BECOMING RENEWED TARGETS OF TERRORIST ACTIVITY: *Left*—**Men of the Highland Light Infantry marching through the city with a piper in action beside the unit commander. They were on the way to take up defensive positions.** *Right*—**Troops and Palestine police standing beside the body of one of the youths who had attempted to blow up Jerusalem's Military Court. Two guards, both Arab special constables, were killed in this attack, said to be a combined effort by Irgun Zvai Leumi and members of the Stern Gang.** The loss of British lives in Palestine, following the Ben Yehuda Street disaster and as a result of the Rehoboth train outrage, has led to the British Government sending a note of protest to the Jewish Agency. One passage in the note reads: "In this neglect of its responsibilities (to bring the terrorists to justice) the Jewish Agency has attempted to excuse itself by resort to calculated innuendoes, falsehoods and propaganda directed against British members of the security forces, who are, in fact, every day protecting Jewish property and saving hundreds of Jewish lives, even at the risk of their own. This propaganda has already discredited its authors, and not only among those acquainted with the facts. It has also the serious consequences that it must henceforward be more difficult for British troops to look upon the Jewish community as persons entitled, as they are, to protection"

HUNGARY SIGNS UP WITH SOVIET RUSSIA

And Other News from a Troubled World

MOLOTOV SIGNS THE RUSSO-HUNGARIAN PACT IN MOSCOW, AND AS HE SIGNS HUNGARY IS THE SCENE OF A POLITICAL PURGE: This picture was taken in the Kremlin as the Soviet Foreign Minister put his signature to the Treaty of Friendship, Co-operation and Mutual Assistance between the Soviet Union and the Hungarian Republic. Standing behind Mr. Molotov is Generalissimo Stalin, and on Stalin's left hand are Mr. Matthias Rakosi, the Hungarian Communist leader, and Mr. Szakasits, the leader of the Left Wing of the Socialist Party. Mr. Szakasists, who is Deputy Prime Minister of Hungary, returned from Moscow and declared that in the few days of his absence "ten years'-worth of events" had taken place in Budapest. He was referring to the virtual liquidation of the Right and Centre members of his party. On Stalin's right hand in this picture are Mr. Tildy, President of the Hungarian Republic, and Mr. Dinnyes, the Prime Minister of Hungary

ARAB MILITARY MANŒUVRES IN SOUTHERN SYRIA: Fawzi Bey El Kaoukji (seated right), the fighting chief of the Arab volunteer armies, conferring over a map with his A.D.C., Captain Rifai (centre), and one of his field commanders (left)

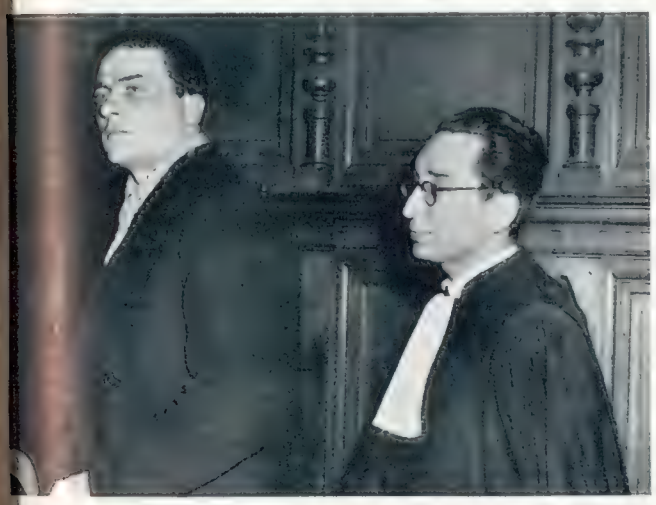
THE ARAB LEVIES DRILL IN SOUTHERN SYRIA IN PREPARATION FOR THE DAY WHEN THE BRITISH WITHDRAW FROM PALESTINE: Fawzi Bey El Kaoukji (fourth from right, facing the camera) watching his troops carrying out manœuvres from a hilltop point of vantage. Part of a motorised unit is seen advancing along the track on the right in American vehicles. The officer on the left is riding a British-type motor-cycle. Some of the Arab officers are wearing American uniforms and some parts of British uniform. These Arab levies are well drilled. Already lorry-loads of them have crossed the Syrian frontier in force and have tried their strength against isolated Jewish camps

CONFUSED NEWS FROM THE YEMEN: The gateway of the Royal Palace at Sana, capital of the Arabian Kingdom of the Yemen, where the Imam Yahya has been assassinated; also his Prime Minister and two of his sons. It is understood that the two sons attempted to escape the assassins by leaping into the Royal car, which is seen in the foreground of this picture, but they failed to make a getaway. Imam Abdulla al Wazir, a rich Mocha planter and one-time Premier, who has seized the throne, is fighting to crush the resistance movement organised by one of the late Imam's sons

EX-KING MICHAEL OF RUMANIA AND PRINCESS ANNE OF BOURBON-PARMA GO SHOPPING IN PARIS: The engaged Royal couple walking through the Place Vendôme following their arrival in the city from Davos. Recently ex-King Michael's mother, ex-Queen Helen, and Princess Anne's mother, Princess Rene, received an audience with the Pope, and it is believed that they sought a dispensation for the Royal marriage. Princess Anne is a Roman Catholic. The ex-King does not belong to that faith

A GERMAN BARONESS CHARGED WITH ESPIONAGE IN FRANCE : Sixty-year-old Baroness Freya Miria Von Einem during her trial in Paris. The Baroness, widow of an Austrian General, appeared before the Paris Military Tribunal early this month. She was charged with espionage committed in 1938-39, when she came to France to bribe French newspaper reporters to write pro-German propaganda. She was originally charged in her absence in 1940 and sentenced to death. She now appears alone, all her accomplices having been sentenced to death or having escaped except a M. Aubin, who has turned State witness

AN OLD CHINESE CUSTOM : Nationalist troops point to the headless body of a guerilla leader. His head has been affixed to the wall, behind. At Tsingpu, a small village about 30 miles from Shanghai, a band of Chinese guerilla troops ran into a Nationalist trap. They held the Government forces until mortars were brought up, which eventually wiped out the guerillas' machine-gun nests, killing thirteen of the irregulars, including their leader. In the picture above, a group of city commissioners and Shanghai garrison officials are inspecting the bodies of the slain guerilla troops. Hanging on the wall is the head of Ting Hsi-Shan, leader of the band, whose decapitated body lies on the ground just below



THE CASE OF M. HENRI VERDOUX : The Paris bank clerk and his counsel, Me. Klotz, in the Paris court where they have been bringing an action against the distributors of Chaplin's film "Monsieur Verdoux." Me. Klotz said that his client had six points in common with the Verdoux of the film

On left—The Charles Chaplin film *Monsieur Verdoux* is the racy account of a Paris bank clerk who, forsaking his profession for that of professional husband and wife-killer, earns a lucrative income. When the film was shown recently in Paris, a Paris bank clerk named Henri Verdoux found that his life became unbearable as a result of the unwelcome publicity he received. In a recent court action M. Verdoux claimed 5,000,000 francs from United Artists, producers of the film in the United States, the Nouvelle Gaumont Company, distributors of the film in France, and the cinemas in Paris. He asserted that his reputation and his well-being had suffered through the film. Me. Klotz, for the plaintiff, said that his client had been chased by journalists, harried by photographers, and had completely lost his former calm

MR. CROSSMAN IN GERMANY : One of the leaders of the Labour Party Left Wing, well known to Germans by reason of his broadcasts as Director of Propaganda to Enemy Countries, seen (second from right) during a recent visit to a Dusseldorf works

IRANIAN CROWDS DEMONSTRATE ROUND THE COFFIN OF A MURDERED EDITOR : A scene outside the Parliament building, to which the demonstrators tried to take the coffin of Mohamed Masood. Often described as the most colourful of Iranian journalists, Mohamed Masood campaigned against all and sundry with the exception of the "common man," whose spokesman he became. One of his last spectacular acts was to offer a reward of 1,000,000 rials to anyone who would assassinate Qawam-es-Sultaneh. Masood was twice shot in the head while attempting to start his car in a deserted street behind the Iranian Ministry of Education

BELIZE, CAPITAL OF BRITISH HONDURAS : The centre of the Guatemalan dispute to which H.M.S. "Sheffield" and H.M.S. "Devonshire" have been sent. Emboldened by the Argentine and Chilean demands in the Falklands, Guatemala made her claim for British Honduras. On February 23 a resolution was put forward in the Guatemalan Congress advocating immediate invasion of the British possession, but the President refused to accept it. Irresponsible elements have been reported to be in touch with Mexican soldiers and a report from Mexico City referred to a punitive expedition against Belize "illegally held by Britain." The citizens of British Honduras have no desire to become Guatemalans, stated Mr. Bevin last week

COMMUNISM ON THE MARCH

News from Finland, Czechoslovakia and Italy

FINLAND'S PREMIER LEAVES THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE IN HELSINKI: Mr. Pekkala had been discussing with President Paasikivi Stalin's proposed pact of mutual assistance. First reports from Helsinki indicated that only the Communist-dominated People's Democratic Union Party were in favour of military commitments with Russia, especially in view of Finland's limited forces and the present remoteness of possible German aggression. The President has been in close touch with Parliament throughout the preliminary discussions

THE COMMANDER OF FINLAND'S DEFENCE FORCES CONFERS WITH HIS PRESIDENT: In the preliminary discussions, General Aarne Sihvo, together with the two Foreign Ministers Mr. Enckell and Mr. Svento, spent four hours in conference with President Paasikivi

A SIGNIFICANT PICTURE TAKEN IN PRAGUE DURING THE WEEK OF THE CZECH COMMUNIST PUTSCH: So-called "Factory Guards" in civilian clothes, but armed with rifles, paraded in the old town square at the height of the crisis. Last week, purge followed purge as the new Czech Government rid itself and the country of non-sympathisers. Approximately one in eleven of the total membership of the Journalists' Union has been expelled. In education, civics is to be taught compulsorily in all schools and universities, and some fifty professors have been sent on compulsory leave. Pictures of Mr. Stalin are now part of the decoration of all schoolrooms. In the legal profession, judges of the Central Court, members of the State Attorney's office and officials of the Ministry of Justice have been dismissed. Each day brought news of Czech Ministers leaving the country and of Envoys refusing to recognise the new Government. But Mr. Jan Masaryk declared, "My place is with the people, with the Czechs and Slovaks whom I love." Churchill Square in Bratislava has been renamed Trade Union Square! In London an unsuccessful attempt was made to take over a Czech fortnightly journal edited by Mr. Josef Kodicek, who ordered the bearer of a letter from the Czech Ambassador to leave his office. The *Central European Observer* was subsidised by the Czech Foreign Office and must now seek new capital if it is to continue publication

ITALY'S COMMUNIST LEADER: Palmiro Togliatti making a speech for the election on April 18. He has been accused by Premier de Gasperi of setting up Communist Action Committees

PREMIER DE GASPERI MAKES AN ELECTION ADDRESS: Italy's Premier and leader of the Christian Democrats. He has made it quite plain that he is not hoodwinked by Communist tactics

ITALY'S FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER DOES NOT STAND FOR A MIDDLE-OF-THE-ROAD POLICY: Signor Nenni in action during the election campaign. Nenni describes himself as a Left-wing Socialist and supports Communist Togliatti. He has been a stern critic of de Gasperi, because Nenni declares that he has exposed the country at the same time to inflationary and deflationary policies. Nenni was succeeded by Count Sforza as Foreign Minister in July 1947, when de Gasperi formed a fourth administration which excluded Communists and Socialists. The Communists would probably have to call upon his help if there was a big swing to the Left in the forthcoming elections

A HILL CITY ON THE ROAD TO LHASSA : A dramatic view from the heights of the town of Gyantse, which stands 13,000 ft. above sea-level on the main trade route between the State of Sikkim and the Tibetan capital, Lhassa. The pictures on these pages were taken by Ernest Reid, a Canadian film-director, who accompanied William Dunning on his recent journey to Tibet. In the centre background of this picture of Gyantse is the massive Gompa and Golden Chorten, built in memory of a departed Lama. The town shows little evidence of planning

A JOURNEY TO TIBET

A Canadian Expedition Spends Three Months in the Still Little-Known Land

Tibet, land of the Lamas, is not the mysterious country it was in the nineteenth century, but, nevertheless, pictures from Tibet are sufficiently rare to arouse considerable interest, and our knowledge of the manners and customs of the people can always be supplemented with advantage. These pictures, taken on the recent expedition led by William Dunning, the Canadian explorer, form a special four-page section of THE SPHERE. An interesting personality encountered by Mr. Dunning and his party was Sangay Bo, a Sikkimese nobleman, who lives in Gyantse, speaks English fluently, and adorns his walls with cuttings from THE SPHERE and other journals. His picture appears on the next page. His wife, a Tibetan, speaks only her native tongue. Other pictures illustrate the dancing troupes, and the banner-raising ceremony, an important Tibetan religious custom, and the whole record is one of fascinating interest.

A MULE TRAIN LEAVES GYANTSE CARRYING FERTILISER TO THE FIELDS : On the left is the massive wall which runs round the monastery area of this typical Tibetan city lying 120 miles south of Lhassa. The canals are newly dug each spring, and are fed by a river which is a tributary of the upper reaches of the Ganges

SETTING OUT FROM GANGTOK : William Dunning (centre), a Canadian-born explorer who served with the Royal Canadian Air Force during the war, seen with his mules and muleteers and fellow-members of the expedition as he prepared to set out for the Tibetan border on a three-months journey. On the extreme right is Ernest Reid, the specialist in film documentaries, who acted as cameraman to the party and took these pictures

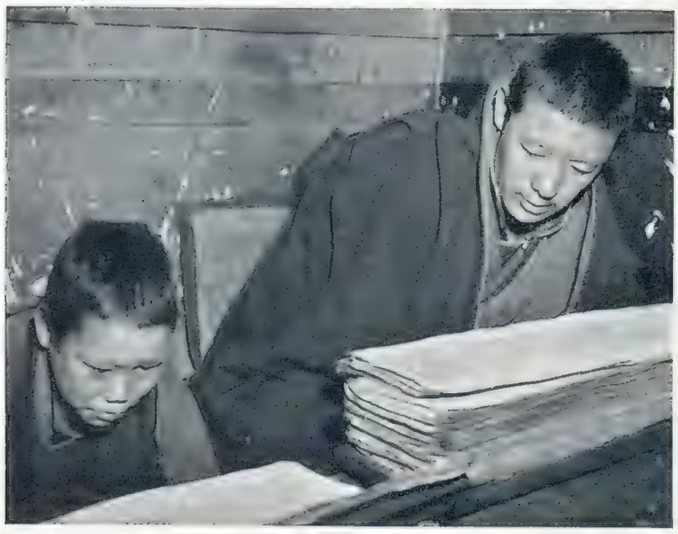
A JOURNEY TO TIBET

Some Celebrities in Gyantse

A SIKKIMESE NOBLEMAN: The Rai Bahadur Sonam, who is an expert on Tibetan affairs, was one of the outstanding personalities encountered by Mr. Dunning and his party during the course of their three-months expedition to Tibet. The Rai Bahadur Sonam is a Buddhist

SANGAY BO STICKS PAGES OF "THE SPHERE" TO THE WALLS OF HIS GYANTSE HOME: Sangay Bo, also a Sikkimese nobleman, seated beside his wife, a native of Tibet. On the walls behind them are pages from "The Sphere" and other journals which he reads with regularity to keep in touch with the affairs of the world beyond Tibet. Sangay Bo's wife wears a silk dress and ornaments of turquoise and coral

ARUMJUM IS ONE OF THE BEST TAILORS AND HATTERS IN GYANTSE: He is seen (on right) using a sewing machine, which he finds gives him a marked advantage over all other competition. Arumjum is measuring up a sun helmet for one of the many sahibs he numbers among his customers. His shop lies directly on the main trade route from Sikkim to Lhassa, and he is a ready listener to tales from the outside world



THEY STUDY THE BUDDHIST SCRIPTURES: A Lama and a young student in Gompa Monastery, Gyantse. The Scriptures are written in Sanskrit on hand-made paper. The boy has to work some ten hours a day before graduating as a Lama at the age of eighteen. There are at least half-a-million Lamas in Tibet, and they are recruited from all classes

RIMSTHI DOTHI, A WOOL-TAX COLLECTOR OF PHARI DZONG, RUNS A SCHOOL FOR HIS SERVANTS AND THEIR CHILDREN: A servant is no good if he cannot read and write, he says. The children learn to write by copying sentences until they have mastered them, a task which usually takes about seven years. Hereditary and feudal principles still govern the life of Tibet. Men follow their fathers' callings and they rarely change their occupations. Rimsthi Dothi belongs to the hereditary ruling class, hence his right to tax, administer justice, and requisition labour. This lay society, which includes a large number of serfs, is of course dominated by the monastic hierarchy

THE HIGH LAMA OF LINGMATANG MONASTERY SEATED AT HIS TABLE: Lingmatang lies on a Tibetan plain 12,000 ft. above sea-level, and the Lama's power is supreme over a wide area. The Canadian expedition which visited Lingmatang found that it had a vast reputation as a school of learning among the "yellow" or reform sect of Lamas. The monastic hierarchy in Tibet possesses extraordinary power allied to great wealth. As the monks come from all classes the community as a whole remains interested in maintaining their prosperity. Serfs are attached to each monastery

A NUN FROM SHIGATZE: Nordsinlal Tsering uses European make-up, and her robe is of English serge. She has travelled many hundreds of miles by pony both in India and China, and possesses an infinitely greater knowledge of the outside world than the average Tibetan

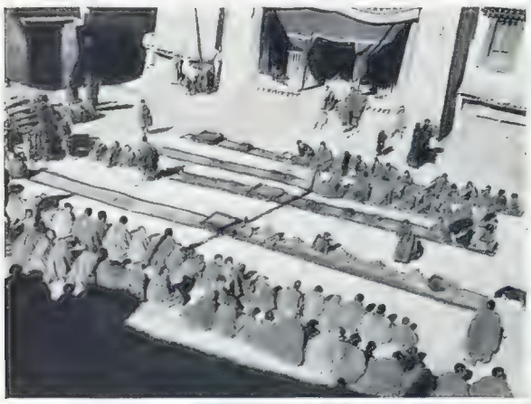
RETURNING A HOLY BOOK TO THE LIBRARY: A Lama in one of the great monasteries handles one of the precious bundles. The hand-made paper sheets of each book are wrapped in silk cloth and held between boards. In the foreground are four silver horns used in monastery celebrations

A JOURNEY TO TIBET

The Roving Dancers and the Banner Raisers

BEATING THE BIG DRUM: This Tibetan acts as drummer to a troupe of roving dancers. She was shy of the camera, and would not speak to the expedition's interpreter. It was gathered she had just been attending New Year celebrations at a monastery

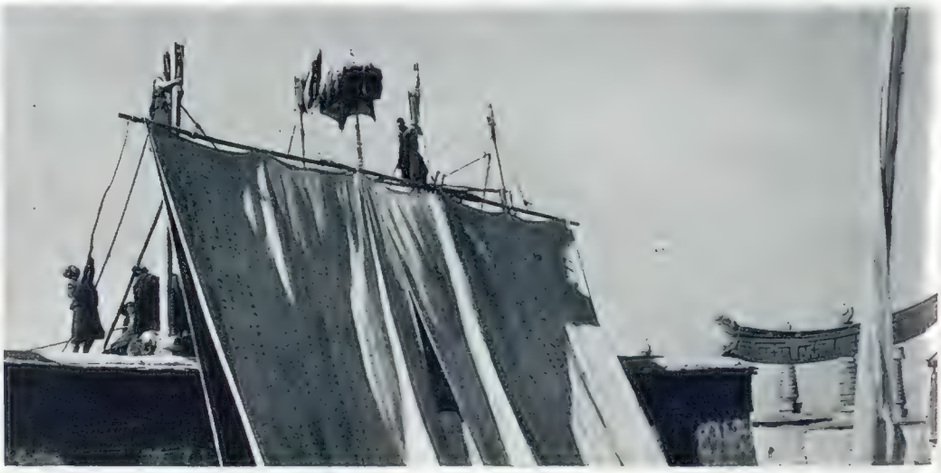
THE MASKED DANCERS OF PHARI DZONG: They take part in one of the dances of the roving troupe's repertoire. This dance depends largely on the masks and a number of set poses. There is little action



THE LAMAS BEGIN TO ARRIVE: A scene in the courtyard of a monastery near Gyantse as the priests take up their positions for the banner-raising ceremony

CREATING A "THANKA": A Lama painter at work on a ceremonial religious banner of the type hung in monasteries and the houses of the rich. As ever the central figure is Buddha, and he is surrounded by other specialised forms common to Buddhist art

A TROUPE OF ROVING DANCERS AT PHARI DZONG: These dances are centuries old and closely connected with religious worship. The women who play the drums and cymbals enter only the less strenuous dances. In the course of a single year the troupe will rove far and wide across Tibet



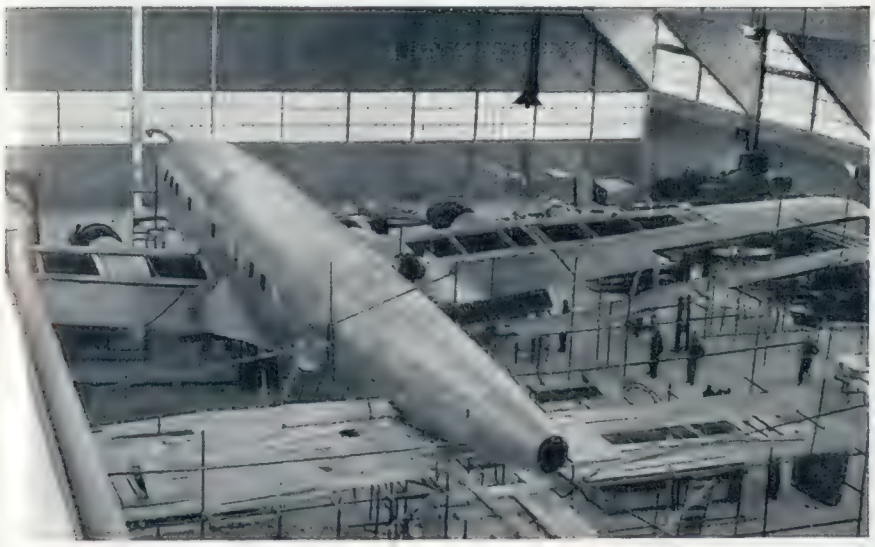
"THANKA"—THE TIBETAN BANNER-RAISING CEREMONY: This takes place near Gyantse every spring. The banner, bearing a highly-coloured portrait of Buddha, is about 50 ft. high and 30 ft. wide. It is first raised with a covering cloth, as shown in this picture, and it remains up only until the sun strikes it. Afterwards the banner is reverently put away until the following year

THE WONDER OF THE SILKEN BANNER IS REVEALED TO THE PEOPLE: The banner, suspended from the roof of a monastery building near Gyantse, depicts Buddha surrounded by multi-coloured forms of Buddhist art. Only dogs are allowed to roam freely during the ceremony, though the cross-legged Lamas in the forecourt are not at all solemn and there is much tea-drinking and blowing of horns. Gaiety is indeed the keynote of the occasion. All people approaching the monastery must keep to the left and, before entering the main building, must walk under the banner

STREAKING OVER THE HOME COUNTIES—THE DE HAVILLAND COMET 108 ON A TRIAL FLIGHT FROM HATFIELD AERODROME : The 108 is the third and latest version of the type developed by de Havilland's with a view to obtaining data for their four-jet transatlantic air-liner. The first machine was brought out for low-speed research, having fixed slots on the leading edge ; the second machine, that in which Geoffrey de Havilland lost his life, had controllable leading-edge slots for high-speed research ; and this latest revised version has strengthened wings, a redesigned cockpit cover and a nose of finer form. This picture gives an impression of the extent to which the wings are swept back. The machine has been nicknamed the "Whistling Boomerang"

THE D.H. COMET (REVISED VERSION)

And Other Aviation News of the Moment



ITALY BUILDS A GIANT AIR-LINER : The Breda Zappata 308, the largest aircraft ever constructed in Italy, in course of assembly at the Breda Aircraft Factory, Milan. The prototype machine will have accommodation for eighty passengers, and there may also be an alternative model carrying thirty-one passengers and about 2 tons of cargo. It would appear from this picture that the machine will have radial piston engines, but no details are available regarding the power plant

THE DAKOTA TRAGEDY AT LONDON AIRPORT : Only three of the twenty-two occupants of a Belgian Sabena Dakota air-liner escaped with their lives when the aircraft, coming in to land in thick fog at London Airport, hit the tarmac, bounced 20 ft. into the air, fell again and exploded. Fierce flame and flying white-hot metal prevented the rescue of the sixteen passengers and the crew of three. With the exception of the tail the entire machine was completely burned out, as shown in the picture (*on right*), in which an official of the Accidents Investigation Branch of the Ministry of Civil Aviation is seen taking photographs of the wreckage. The machine was on a routine flight from Brussels, and as it approached the airport it flashed a radio message that it might have to make an emergency landing. Ambulances and rescue parties were ordered to stand by, and a few minutes later the aircraft nose-dived. Doctors, nurses and B.O.A.C. traffic girls, fire tenders and ambulances were rushed to the scene, but little could be done because of the tremendous heat round the fuselage

THE U.S. NAVY'S FIRST ALL-JET-PROPELLED CARRIER-BASED FIGHTER PLANE—THE F.J.1. : The machine, made by North American Aviation, is a fighter with a speed of more than 550 m.p.h. and a range of 1,500 miles. It carries six machine-guns, which are mounted in the nose on each side of the jet intake. The pilot has an excellent field of view from his high cockpit. When this picture was taken the F.J.1. was flying above the Californian Mountains in the region of San Diego

A Survey of the Home News

AFFAIRS SPIRITUAL AND TEMPORAL

THE BISHOP OF LONDON INAUGURATES HIS CAMPAIGN TO PRESENT THE MESSAGE OF CHRISTIANITY IN THE LONDON DIOCESE "ON A SCALE UNSURPASSED IN MODERN TIMES": Dr. J. W. C. Wand seated between the Rev. F. C. Tyler (left), the secretary of the mission, and Archdeacon Gibbs-Smith at his news conference at Fulham Palace when he announced the details of his "mission of recovery." The mission's preliminary stage will provide for the training and preparation of the clergy and representative laity, and will begin on May 24, when details will be announced at an Albert Hall meeting which will be addressed by the Archbishop of York. The first stage of the campaign will have a purely local and personal emphasis. The second will include large gatherings in London

THE SPEAKER ENTERS: William Davison, preceded by the mace-bearer (S. M. Drancz), as he entered the Union Debating Hall, Edinburgh, for the Inter-University Parliamentary Debate staged by Edinburgh University Debates Committee. The procedure followed the lines of House of Commons procedure with the exception that the Edinburgh Parliament had Conservative Ministers on the Front Bench. Question time provided lively interchanges between members

QUESTION TIME IN EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY'S HOUSE OF COMMONS: A member is seen replying to a question at the start of the proceedings of the Inter-University Parliamentary Debate

WHEN THE CONGREGATION WAS HANDED OVER TO THE BAND — THE SCENE IN ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, BURY, WITH THE DANCE ORCHESTRA IN FRONT OF THE SANCTUARY, AFTER THEY HAD BEEN INVITED BY THE VICAR TO PLAY DURING THE EVENING SERVICE: On the Sunday evening of this presentation in All Saints', the congregation numbered over 600, at least 500 more than at a normal service. The Vicar, Rev. Alfred Wasey, said after the service, "The power of music is for good. That is my justification for the orchestra." He then declared, "This is no stunt. I would rather have people come for a special service than not come at all." The local dance band, complete in evening dress and sitting behind their painted music-stands, played for more than half-an-hour. The programme included religious and light music, and a choirboy sang three solos with the band. The band leader said that they had jumped at the chance of playing in the church, although Sunday was their only free evening. The Vicar called in the orchestra to "pep up" his service

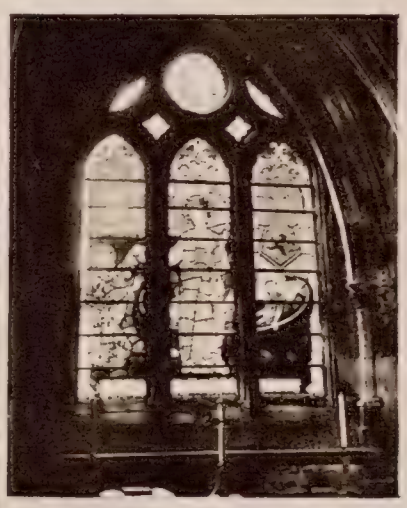
A LAST FLING ON RECEIVING PROMOTION: Rear-Admiral William-Powlett, Captain in command of the Royal Naval College, Dartmouth, doing the Highland Fling with Chief Cadet Reid prior to his departure for the Admiralty. He had just been appointed Naval Secretary to the First Sea Lord. During the war Rear-Admiral William-Powlett commanded H.M.S. "Fiji" and latterly was Captain of the Fleet, Home Fleet

A NEW PEER IS INTRODUCED TO THE HOUSE OF LORDS: Lord Mackintosh (centre), Chairman of the National Savings Movement, with his sponsors, Lord Inman (left) and Lord Kindersley (right), before he was formally introduced to the House. The new peer's maiden speech in the Lords will probably be in the debate on National Savings on March 24

"EYES RIGHT" AT THE WOMEN'S ROYAL ARMY CORPS' NEW O.C.T.U.: A well-drilled platoon passes a convenient saluting-base. The "Sandhurst for Women" is situated in the old Imperial Service College at Windsor. Its first commandant is Australian-born Chief Commander Lady Margaret Bowyer-Smith, wife of Captain Sir Philip Bowyer-Smith, R.N. retd., aide-de-camp to the King. She served during the war in the Women's Transport Service

INSPECTOR MALLOY BRIEFS GLASGOW POLICEWOMEN: Scotland's only woman police inspector at her morning conference. Tact, common sense and a good education are the main attributes of a competent policewoman, according to Miss Jean Malloy, only woman police inspector in Scotland. Inspector Malloy joined Glasgow Police Force in 1920 when the women's section was an auxiliary force. She has completed twenty-eight of the 30 years' service. Glasgow has twenty-eight policewomen, fourteen plain-clothed, attached to the C.I.D., twelve uniformed, Sergeant Janet Gray, an instructor, and Inspector Malloy. The last two were awarded the B.E.M. recently for distinguished service

THIS AND 749 MORE—THE SOAP-BOX WITH THE DEPOSIT ON IT: Ex-Pathfinder Owen L. Roberts, who fought the Wigan by-election as "King's Cavalier," standing on a box marked "Deposit 4s." Wearing a three-cornered hat and ringing a bell has not noticeably assisted the young ex-R.A.F. Pathfinder in his election campaign at Wigan. Together with the Communist candidate he forfeited his deposit

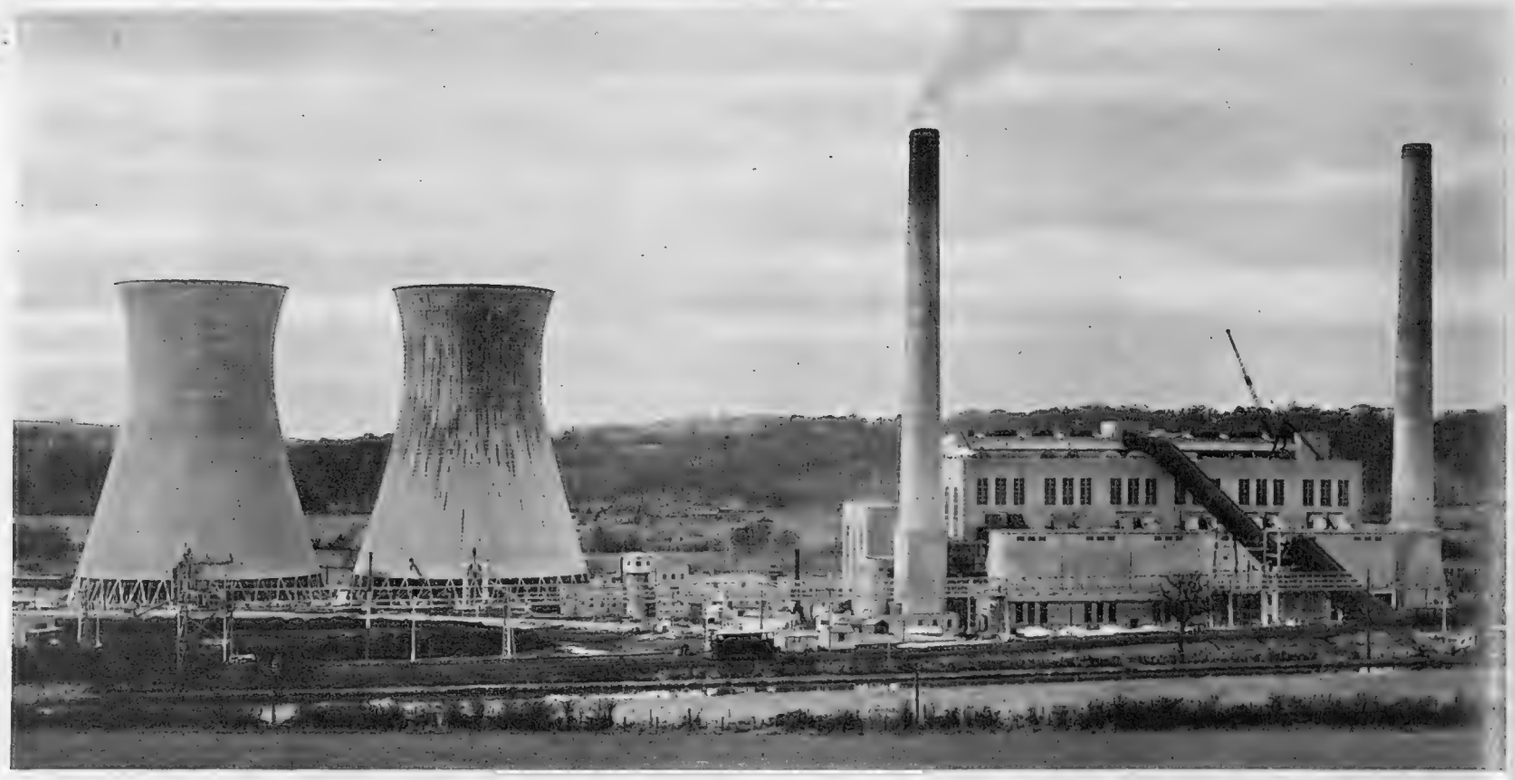


THE MEMORIAL WINDOW IN EXETER CATHEDRAL DEDICATED TO THE MEN OF H.M.S. "EXETER" WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES IN THE LAST WAR: It was unveiled at the beginning of the month by the Bishop of Exeter. The window, which is in the Chapel of St. Andrew at Exeter Cathedral, shows Christ raising St. Peter from the water. In the background is a ship, bearing the crest of H.M.S. *Exeter* on its sail. The ceremony was attended by about 200 survivors and relatives, including Captain O. L. Gordon, R.N.

THE DEAN OF EXETER, THE CAPTAIN OF H.M.S. "EXETER" AND THE BISHOP OF EXETER AFTER THE SERVICE IN EXETER CATHEDRAL: Dr. S. C. Carpenter, Captain O. L. Gordon, R.N., who commanded H.M.S. "Exeter" when she was sunk, and Dr. C. E. Curzon, Bishop of Exeter. The ship's chaplain of H.M.S. "Exeter," the Rev. Fitzgerald, also took part in the service

Below—**SALMON FISHING IN THE RIVER SEVERN: Sixty-four-year-old Tom Pullin sets his "lave-net" across the specially-built channel.** The stone-built channel is funnel-shaped, allowing the net to cover the narrow end. A sound knowledge of tides and the shifting bed of the river is needed for successful fishing. The "Lave-net" men on the Severn work in a gang of six and pool profits

TWO MEN OF THE GANG OF SIX SALMON FISHERMEN WITH THEIR "LAVE-NETS": The one remaining gang at work on the Severn are discouraging their sons from following this calling, as making a living becomes increasingly difficult



THE MAIN BUILDINGS OF THE MEAFORD "A" GENERATING STATION OF THE NORTH-WEST MIDLANDS JOINT ELECTRICITY AUTHORITY: Meaford, in the Staffordshire industrial area, is the first new station of the Central Electricity Board's programme to be put into commission, and it has a capacity of 120,000 kw. Each of its four 30,000-kw. G.E.C. turbo-alternators supplies power through step-up transformers to the grid at 132,000 volts. Several important new power stations are also under construction in the South of England, including those at Croydon, Kingston and Poole Harbour

NEW LIGHT ON THE INDUSTRIAL BATTLE

Meaford Power Station Goes Into Action—Experiments in the Kent and Glamorganshire Coalfields

Britain's coal-mining industry, now setting out to reach a 211,000,000-ton target in 1948 in its second year under the National Coal Board, is in process of complete reorganisation. New sinkings are also taking place, and such projects as the new pits at Calverton, Notts, and at Tothes, Fife, are each planned for an output of 1,500,000 tons annually. At Nantgarw, Glamorganshire, the Board is engaged in building a model pit, an illustration of which appears on the right, and it is hoped that the new methods of mining introduced in this coalfield will make for greater efficiency in production and help towards the elimination of lung complaints, so prevalent in the industry. At Chislet, one of the leading collieries in the Kent coalfield, the Board has carried out a considerable programme of reorganisation, with an adjustment between the ratio of underground workers to surface workers, and a demonstration installation of fluorescent lighting has been instituted. The effects of this are being closely watched, and it is highly possible that this form of illumination may become general

THE N.C.B.'S MODEL COLLIERY IN SOUTH WALES: Work in progress on the erection of winding gear and surface buildings at the National Coal Board's pit at Nantgarw, near Cardiff, where new methods of production will be introduced and miners will work under greatly-improved conditions, with wider underground roadways, greater head-room, and, most important of all, an atmosphere free of dust. The project is costing £2,500,000

THE EXPERIMENTAL INSTALLATION OF FLUORESCENT LIGHTING AT THE COAL-FACE AT CHISLET COLLIERY, KENT: This is the first of nine demonstration installations to be completed for a committee sponsored by the National Coal Board. Others will follow during the next few months, and the industry as a whole will await with interest the committee's decision as to the suitability of this form of lighting for the coal-mines of Britain. The fluorescent fittings, which are of an approved flame-proof type, incorporate 15-watt tubes 18 ins. long with a diameter of 1 in. At Chislet the coal-seam varies in thickness from 3 ft. to 3 ft. 9 ins., and the fittings, which are experimentally coupled in pairs by flame-proof couplers, are suspended directly over the conveyor at intervals of about 5 yards. The lamp fittings incorporate special protective Perspex covers

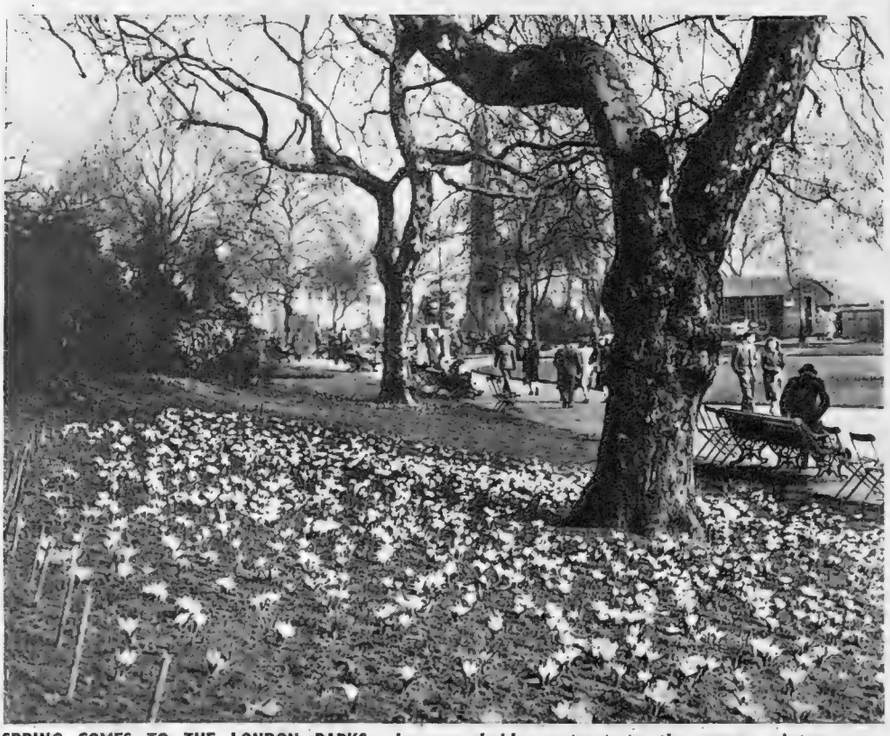
MEMBERS OF THE ROYAL FAMILY PAY A PRIVATE VISIT TO THE "DAILY MAIL" IDEAL HOME EXHIBITION: The Queen and Princess Margaret admiring a puppy on one of the stands during a tour of the Exhibition, now in its silver-jubilee year. One of the attractions of this year's show is that visitors will be able to buy most of the goods displayed, and an interesting innovation is a playland where children may be left by their parents while they tour the rest of the show. The Queen was particularly interested in the Ministry of Health's village of town and country homes for 1948. This includes a terrace of three traditional brick houses, two attractive Cornish unit houses, and a permanent two-storey prefabricated aluminium house

ROYAL OCCASIONS

THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH AT THE ALBERT HALL BOXING CONTESTS: Prince Philip, as Patron of the London Federation of Boys' Clubs, presents a cup to J. le Surf, winner of a senior bout in the 10 st. 7 lb. class. On the right is P. Kebbell, whom Le Surf defeated. His Royal Highness presented cups and medals to winners and runners-up in all classes. After being welcomed by Sir Charles Wrench, the Duke referred to his pleasure at becoming a patron of the Federation

PRINCESS ELIZABETH AT THE DESPATCH CENTRE OF THE WOMEN'S VOLUNTARY SERVICES: Her Royal Highness at the Central Hall, Westminster, where gift food parcels are being made up for old people from supplies sent to the Princess from overseas on the occasion of the Royal wedding. The Princess wore a new spring hat in beige with a large velvet butterfly-bow decoration. She was accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh

DISPLACED V.I.P.S IN TRAFALGAR SQUARE—GEORGE WASHINGTON MOVES OVER FOR JAMES II: Men digging a new hole for the plinth and erecting scaffolding prior to moving the George Washington statue (seen in the background) to a new position ten yards away. The reason for the change is to ensure a symmetrical arrangement when the Grinling Gibbons statue of James II arrives in the Square. The exiled Stuart King is also a displaced person, as his statue stood on the site now occupied by the Admiralty Citadel, scene of Cabinet meetings during World War II. The Washington statue is a reproduction of a statue by Jean-Antoine Houdon, the French sculptor, which is at Richmond, Virginia. It was presented to London in 1921 by the people of Virginia. Trafalgar Square is undergoing a complete reorganisation, with the positions of fountains and statuary realigned. In the background of this picture is the main entrance to St. Martin-in-the-Fields. This year the Square celebrates a grim centenary, for the Chartist riots of 1848 began there when youths destroyed the hoarding at the base of the Nelson monument

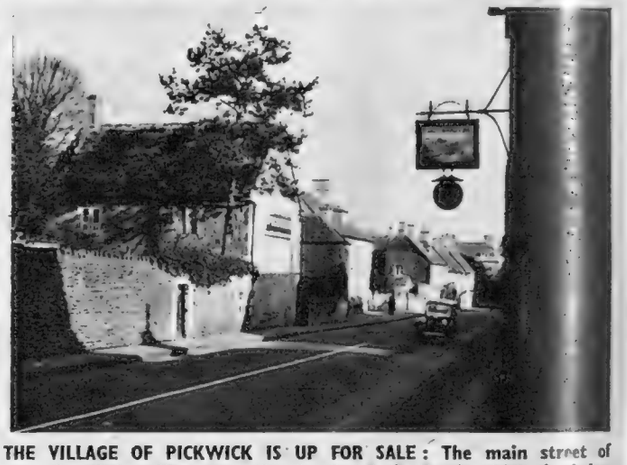


SPRING COMES TO THE LONDON PARKS: In remarkable contrast to the severe wintry conditions prevailing only a week before, the weather in London made a complete change with the advent of March. During the luncheon hour parks and other open spaces were thronged with City workers strolling and sitting in the sunshine. This picture was taken in the Embankment Gardens, Charing Cross, where there is a fine display of crocuses in bloom

In Town and Country Now

LONDON FLATS, PLYMOUTH PRE-FABS AND A SHROPSHIRE STATELY HOME

A GIANT BLOCK OF LONDON FLATS NEARS COMPLETION: The ten-storey block in Theobald's Road, near Kingsway, occupies a blitzed site taken over for municipal building. The cost of the flats is estimated at £250,000, and they will have the very latest labour-saving devices fitted, including constant hot water, basement laundries and utility rooms, with one washing machine for every three flats, an electric drying cupboard for each flat, china cabinets and dressers. Cooking will be by gas or electricity according to the tenant's personal choice



THE VILLAGE OF PICKWICK IS UP FOR SALE: The main street of the little village on the London-Bath Road which is being offered at auction in twenty-seven lots. It is highly probable that from the village Charles Dickens obtained the name for the inimitable character in his first novel. It is known that Dickens passed through Pickwick during a visit to the West Country in his young manhood

THE OLD GABLED HOUSES OF PICKWICK: Another scene in the Wiltshire village which is coming under the auctioneer's hammer. Pickwick, which has no church of its own and is really part of Corsham, was the birthplace of Moses Pickwick, proprietor of the Old Bath Coach Inn and owner of the London to Bath coaches. The principal charm of the village lies in the richly mellowed stone and brickwork of its houses

A COLONY OF PREFABRICATED HOUSES IN PLYMOUTH : Some of the new homes which have been built on the outskirts of one of the most badly-bombed cities in Britain

AT WORK AMONG THE RUINS OF PLYMOUTH : A crane removing a battered lamp-standard in the centre of the city, where reconstruction work is now going forward apace. This picture was taken near the site of burnt-out municipal buildings

KNEBWORTH'S TUDOR LODGE IS FALLING INTO DECAY : Considerable concern has been expressed for this building which was erected in the last century from the mellow Tudor brick of the original Knebworth House built in the reign of Henry VII. This picture clearly shows the present state of disrepair, and the way in which the brickwork is disintegrating through neglect. Knebworth has for long been associated with the Lytton family

A NEW AND IMPORTANT ACQUISITION BY THE NATIONAL TRUST : Attingham House, near Shrewsbury, becomes the property of the nation under the terms of the will of the eighth Lord Berwick, who died last June and whose will has just been published. The house, built in 1785 for the first Lord Berwick, is a fine example of late Georgian work

ROYAL PARADE, PLYMOUTH, IS BEGINNING TO TAKE SHAPE IN THE BLITZED HEART OF THE CITY : This overhead view was taken from the tower of St. Andrews, the mother church of Plymouth, and shows the Royal Parade, which was named by the King during his visit in the autumn of 1947. At this point another new road, Armada Way, will join the Royal Parade. With regard to area and public buildings, Plymouth suffered more than any city in Britain during the blitz, and the partial destruction of St. Andrews and of the Guildhall were bitter blows

ATTINGHAM HOUSE HAS A FINE COLONNADED PORTICO : The main entrance to the Georgian mansion which is being taken over by the National Trust under the will of the eighth Lord Berwick, and may possibly be used by Shropshire County Council as an Adult Education centre. Lord Berwick's bequest includes pictures by Van Dyck, Rubens, Lawrence, and Romney, and also certain annuities "to maintain a herd of fallow deer in the park and cause them to be fed"

JOE LOUIS, BILLY BUTLIN, and the AQUABATS

All the Fun of the Fair at the Health and Holidays Exhibition

By CHARLES GRAVES

THE Health and Holidays Exhibition at Earl's Court has still got another few days to run and, in spite of its originally adverse Press, is well worth a visit. True, the holiday resorts are conspicuous by their absence, but this is possibly due to the fact that Billy Butlin, the holiday-camp king, has taken a great deal of space for his "Golden Ballroom"; and Billy Butlin is naturally not very popular with the holiday resorts. From their point of view, far too many people are going to holiday camps instead of staying in hotels and boarding-houses by the seaside. Whatever the reason may be, the gigantic cement halls and passages of Earl's Court are by no means so full of visitors as might have been expected. This very fact, however, makes a visit all the more agreeable to discerning visitors.

Apart from the side-shows and exhibition stands, which include anything from patent knives, caricaturists, balloon-gum and gliders to motor caravans—one of which has just been ordered by Haile Selassie, Emperor of Abyssinia—there are three main features of the exhibition. These are the Arena of Sport, the Aqua Show, and the Golden Ballroom.

BELITA IS NO. 1 AQUABAT AT EARL'S COURT: The underwater dancing star of the Earl's Court Aqua Show seen during a recent visit to her home town at Nether Wallop. She is wearing slacks and a favourite Red Indian style jerkin

The arena is uncommonly interesting. For anything from 6s. to 1 guinea you can watch a number of sports champions in rehearsal, if not in action. There is also the literally inimitable Leslie Welch, who is able to answer any question on sport at the drop of a hat. While I was there he reeled off answer after answer, without any reference-book, to technical questions from all over the hall: such things as the man who scored the largest number of goals in a first-class football match; Jack Hobbs's batting average in any given year; every Derby winner since the year dot; the winner of the first Lonsdale Belt (I had no idea that Lonsdale Belts dated back only to 1911). He only fluffed once—on the name of the champion one-armed weight-lifter in 1937, I think it was.

But about the "champions in action." Denis Compton opened the ball against the Bedser Twins. A net had been rigged up and Compton gave a masterly display of strokes all round the wicket. It must be admitted, though, that once or twice he came out to drive a ball, was beaten by it, and would inevitably have been stumped in real life—a fact which the commentator blandly ignored. All the same, it was most attractive to watch and a pleasant harbinger of summer.

He was followed by Victor Barna and Alec Brook. Personally, I have not watched ping-pong since it became table tennis, and it is absolutely amazing to see a couple of champions hitting the light little celluloid ball with all the drive of a rackets player. The precision is uncanny and the distance from the table at which the players stand—several yards—is an eye-opener.

It seems that an attempt is being made to revive the pre-1914 game of diabolo. The Marchants do astonishing things with it, but I cannot see it shouldering its way back into anything approaching general popularity.

I missed both the high-speed cycling and championship Badminton, but saw every minute of Joe Louis. For the average Englishman, the Health and Holidays Exhibition affords the only possible opportunity to see the heavyweight champion of the world in the ring. At the dress rehearsal attended by the Press, Joe Louis only appeared, it seems, for a couple of minutes and the sports writers scoffed—no doubt quite rightly. He has now extended his routine to nearly a quarter of an hour.

He begins by shadow boxing, grunting a little as he dances and back-pedals around the ring. There is, of course, nothing exciting in this, but it cannot be anything but interesting to see how the world champion actually does do his shadow boxing. The same applies to his ball-punching. Many a minor boxer can hit the punch-ball with just as much precision as Joe Louis. All the same, I liked watching it, particularly his occasional smash. Next came his two exhibition rounds. The first was with the 13 st. 5 lb. champion of Jamaica, a husky negro so dark that, compared with him, Joe Louis almost looked like an albino. This was a typical example of light sparring—very little to it except that one suddenly realised what a very long reach Joe Louis has, and also what a big man he is.

Now came the second exhibition round. I would not have missed it for anything. The sparring partner was a young South African middleweight called Don Millar, who has not yet fought here. I am prepared to wager that he will go a very long way indeed. It is impossible, naturally, to be accurate in one's assessment of a boxer when he is sparring, particularly on an occasion like this, when the big man cannot extend himself. All the same, Don Millar's speed and punch were most impressive. He was obviously trained to a hair, whereas Joe Louis is still full of fat and has only recently crossed the Atlantic. Don Millar had a real go, hitting the negro almost where he liked. It was, of course, a trifle unfair on Louis, who would have been hailed as the world's greatest cad if he had really "had a go." But Millar certainly showed that the "champ" is right to make his fight in June against Joe Walcott his final defence of the heavyweight crown. However unfit, and however gentle with his opponent, he should, I thought, have put up a better show. He was certainly taken by surprise.

After this his trainer continued with the routine by throwing a heavy ball from three yards' range at his stomach, to strengthen his stomach muscles against punches. Finally, he did some skipping exercises, on one occasion missing his skip. Then, with his white dressing-gown pulled over his shoulders, he walked off. Throughout the twelve minutes he did not speak a single word, nor did he smile. Altogether, the whole thing was very odd and well worth watching at point-blank range.

The Aqua Show, starring Johnny Weissmuller, "Stubby" Kruger and Belita, is a remarkable spectacle. Earl's Court has been fixed in such a way that the gigantic hall in which the Aqua Show takes place looks very much like the pool at Wembley. As in the case of Joe Louis's first appearance before the sports writers, so in the Aqua Show the stars appeared for nothing like enough time on the opening night to justify the money which they are being paid. Belita, for example, though getting £500 a week was only visible at the première for a matter of two or three minutes. Worse still, the lighting effects and the temperature of the water, which was very steamy, reduced the spectacle value almost to zero. This has now been altered. Belita, though her appearances are still all too brief, is in the water for an appreciable time. The stars of the Aqua Show are, however, Jack Lambert—the English diving expert—and "Stubby" Kruger, the aquatic comedian. He does a number of very funny things from the high-dive platform. While I was there (over half an hour) Johnny Weissmuller was in the water only for a matter of minutes, though I believe he appeared later.

Altogether, the Aqua Show has a company of 250 men and girls, though many of them never enter the water. It must have been a tremendous headache to fit up a suitable number of dressing- and drying-rooms for them. There are two performances daily, except on Saturday, when there are three.

I did not visit Billy Butlin's Golden Ballroom, which was being televised at the time, but one knows what to expect—the top dance bands and crowds of young people dancing with remarkable decorum.

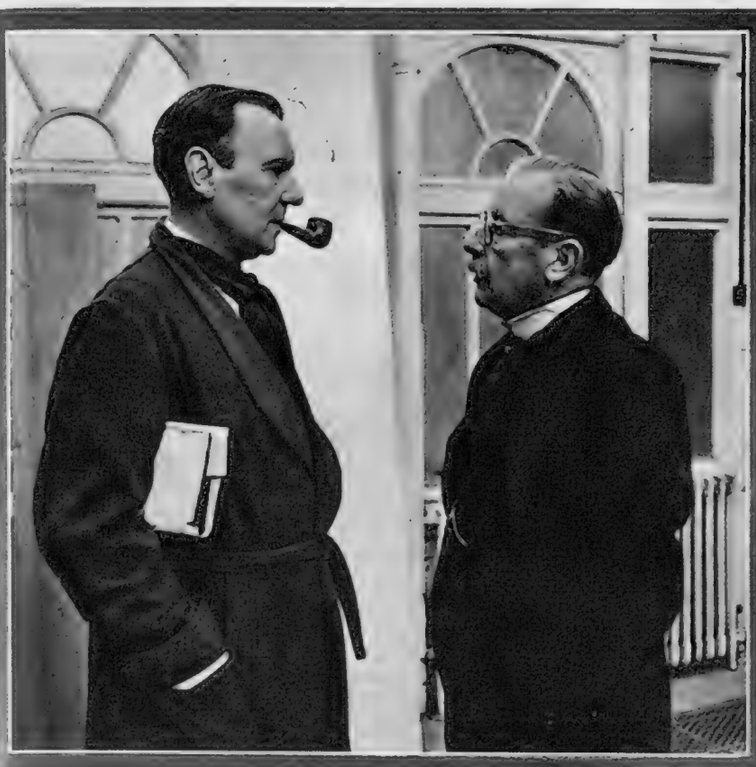
Oh, I almost forgot. One of the most interesting performances at Earl's Court is given by Captain Edwards, the champion fly-caster. He can throw a fly 30 yards to within an inch or two of his "target"—even when spey-casting, which means that he is not allowed to bring the rod back over his shoulder.

Promoters are said to have sunk nearly £250,000 in the Health and Holidays Exhibition, and so far the takings do not justify the expense, except possibly on a long-term view of advance publicity, for Earl's Court has been booked for a similar exhibition every year until 1960.

IN THEIR ELEMENT: Johnny "Tarzan" Weissmuller and Belita, who have been entertaining visitors to the Aqua Show at the Health and Holidays Exhibition held at Earl's Court

BARBARA ANN SCOTT ARRIVES IN LONDON: The Olympic and World Figure-Skating Champion seen at the Airways terminal after crossing from Switzerland. In the Olympic Games she out-skated all her rivals, but not by the margin expected

SIDELIGHTS ON FILM, BALLET AND CONCERT CELEBRITIES



TWO THEATRICAL KNIGHTS MEET AT A FILM STUDIO: Sir Ralph Richardson chatting to Sir Cedric Hardwicke at the London Film Studios, Shepperton. Sir Cedric Hardwicke has come from America to act in the screen version of *The Winslow Boy*, Terence Rattigan's successful play, which was based on the Archer-Shee case. The film is being produced by Anatole de Grunwald and directed by Anthony Asquith. During a luncheon break, Sir Cedric met his friend Sir Ralph Richardson, who is starring in Carol Reed's production of *The Lost Illusion*, in which film Sir Ralph plays the part of Baines, butler to a foreign Embassy in London

DR. FURTWANGLER'S EXPRESSIVE HANDS: The celebrated conductor is giving a series of ten concerts in this country on his first visit since the war. When Dr. Wilhelm Furtwangler arrived at Northolt Airport at the end of last month it was found that he had left in Berlin his Ministry of Labour permit to work here. However, he soon found someone to arrange matters for him, and on the last day of the month gave the first concert of the series when he conducted the London Philharmonic Orchestra at Covent Garden. Dr. Furtwangler was accused of helping to promote Nazi ideology during the war and, just over a year ago, he attended a de-Nazification court at his own request and was cleared of the charges against him

A BRITISH ACTRESS WINS A BRUSSELS FILM AWARD: Kathleen Ryan, the young actress who starred in "Odd Man Out," was awarded a prize at the Brussels Film Festival at the end of last month for her acting in that film

A FRENCH ACTRESS IN THE WINNING FILM: Micheline Presle was in "Le Diable au Corps," which won the Belgian "Oscar." Prince Charles, Belgium's Prince Regent, presented the awards at the Palais des Beaux Arts

THE WORLD'S MOST FAMOUS MALE BALLET DANCER IN A COUNTRY HOTEL NEAR LONDON: Vaslav Nijinsky, largely recovered from his mental breakdown, makes plans for the future. During the war Nijinsky's wife took him to a village in Hungary, where he could be hidden from the Nazis, who were "liquidating" all mentally-unbalanced persons. When the Russian Army liberated the village, the soldiers were delighted to find their distinguished compatriots. After three months, the Nijinskys went to Vienna, where they remained until they came here. He and his wife are planning a world theatre for ballet and Unesco are reported to have expressed their interest in the scheme

ONE OF POLAND'S GREATEST VIOLINISTS TELLS OF HER DRAMATIC ESCAPE FROM THE NAZIS: Mme. Eugenia Uminska talking to M. Zarubin, Russian Ambassador to the Court of St. James's, and Mme. Michalowski, wife of the Polish Ambassador, at a concert at the Polish Embassy. With the same hands with which she enchanted her audience, Mme. Uminska foiled the Nazis. They wanted her to play for them and when they found that she belonged to the Resistance Movement they sent her in the death train. Anything that the prisoners in the train might have used to force the doors of the coaches had been taken away, but Mme. Uminska found a hold too small for a man and, with fingers strengthened through years of violin-playing, managed to force the door and escape as the train ran over an embankment

The World of Books—By VERNON FANE

J. L. GARVIN AND FORD MADOX FORD

Two Men of Letters Form the Subject of New and Intimate Biographies

THE memoir that his daughter has written about the great journalist, J. L. GARVIN (Heinemann. 12s. 6d.), is illuminating and tender. Miss Katharine Garvin has concentrated on the personal side of his life, and left his services to journalism and to the political scene for another hand to delineate. Her book has been written essentially from her own memories of him: as the father of young children, as the adviser on careers and on work, as the lover of dogs, the architect of unconventional libraries, and as a host to a myriad of attentive guests.

This is by no means the definitive life of a remarkable figure, but an intimate, naturally biased and revealing study of a father by one of his daughters.

In THE LAST PRE-RAPHAELITE (Macdonald. 15s.), Mr. Douglas Goldring writes a biography of as different a character as could be imagined: Ford Madox Ford. Ford, who was born Ford Madox Hueffer, and was the son of a Westphalian, naturalised British and an English relative of the Rossettis, loved the French region of Provence more than any place in the world, and yet was in essence an English writer, and at his best a brilliant one.

His mixed inheritance, and the variety of the life which he himself led, never altered, in his biographer's view, the fact that his writing was purely in the English tradition, any more than it altered the fact that "he had but two passions which burned steadily throughout his life. One was for the art of writing; the other was for Provence. To these separate but associated loves," writes Mr. Goldring, "his fidelity was absolute, until the day of his death."

More than most writers of the last half-century, Ford has had his active detractors, and although there have evidently been personal reasons for that, it is just as evident that in Mr. Goldring he has found, after his death, the appreciative critic *par excellence*, and the loyal friend.

Last year was the centenary of Alice Meynell's birth, and in celebration a complete edition of her poems has been arranged, under the editorship of her son, Sir Francis Meynell, who has grouped them in the order which the poet herself would have preferred. The only difficulty that I can foresee about THE POEMS OF ALICE MEYNELL (Hollis and Carter. 12s. 6d.) is the obvious one: of there not being nearly enough copies of the book to go round.

But what a delight it is, if one is lucky enough to possess the book, to read and re-read at leisure such poems as the one that opens with the lines:

"She walks—the lady of my delight—
A shepherdess of sheep . . ."

Or that perfect little poem that ends:

"Sudden the cold airs swing.
Alone, aloud,
A verse of bells takes wing
And flies with the cloud."

In the current edition of the periodical THE WINDMILL (Heinemann. 4s. 6d.) is the first instalment of Mr. Somerset Maugham's new novel, *Catalina*, which will be serialised in four further issues. The complete book, which the author has announced as his last, will not be published until August this year. The setting is Spain, at the time of the Inquisition, and if one may judge by the opening chapters, this is one of the author's major novels.

"Down, down to hell; and say I sent thee thither," as the author of THE SISTERS LIVINGSTON (Peter Davies. 12s. 6d.) might have cried about any

THE "BOOKS FOR BERLIN" MOVEMENT ACHIEVES PRACTICAL RESULTS: Three Berlin girls, Doris Hillenbrand, Elfriede Nebel and Barbara Pflugfelder, sorting out a consignment of 1,000 volumes with Sergeant Albers, of the U.S. Army, who is head of the German Youth Club in Berlin. The "Books for Berlin" movement was started when John Parks, a North Carolina editor, toured Germany and met Sergeant Albers and Doris Hillenbrand. So far, 250,000 books have been collected in the United States, and a large proportion of them are now on the way to various clubs in Germany

or all of the characters in this new novel of compelling force and misery. The three young women in question have a father whom they cherish, and who is devoted to them. They share a ramshackle suburban house not far from New York and live there in what are known as straitened circumstances, but in a degree of gentility that is the pride of the neighbourhood.

Slowly, however, but with an inevitability of which Miss Natalie Anderson Scott certainly has the secret, the family is shown in increasingly hard situations. The father loses his job, they are forced to move into sordid city rooms, one daughter takes a job as a cook-general at a tiny wage which I must say isn't in my experience of such treasures; another is kept, sporadically, by an irresponsible man; the third looks after her dying father in the basement room to which they are finally driven, and, in the end, is herself faced with imminent death from an agonising illness. Nevertheless, and this is where Miss Scott's power lies, there is not an unreadable and not a sensational word in this long novel.

ESTUARY (Bodley Head. 7s. 6d.) is a brief and imaginative work of fiction by Mr. John Pudney, whom most of us know chiefly as a poet of the war years. He writes with that ease and that swiftness of perception that is indeed a poet's gift, and I found his book particularly rewarding. It is the story of a shy boy and of the life that he makes for himself with the help of his "other self," a self-created figure who has all the wisdom, the bravado and the poise that he feels has been denied to him. A slight, but touching story.

There is a fairy-tale atmosphere about PRINCE LEOPOLD AND ANNA (Michael Joseph. 8s. 6d.); the first novel by Miss Laurian Jones, who, as a child, did the illustrations for her mother's enchanting novel *National Velvet*. Being the daughter of such a writer as Enid Bagnold is a heritage in itself, and it may be that Miss Jones is on her way to proving herself in her own right. For the moment, she has given us a deliciously simple and unashamedly romantic version of the love between an English girl and a German noble who spent "half his time staying with royal and semi-royal relations." In spite of the inescapable memories of *The Young Visiter* which this conjures up, Miss Jones's novel develops with charm, and an other-worldliness that is an excellent antidote for low spirits.

Miss Marjorie Hessell Tiltman writes a good, long novel that delights her many admirers, whose point of view I can appreciate, even if it is different from my own. Family sagas are seldom my own choice of reading, but I can see the immensely soothing and, in a way, satisfying effect that they have on an otherwise harassed reader. GOODBYE TO LILLY HOUSE (Hodder and Stoughton. 10s. 6d.) is, in this connection, a first-rate example of the domestic school.

In the early '90's, a beautiful red-haired girl marries a talented black-and-white artist (as distinct from the Royal Academician who also proposes to her), and goes to live in a rambling house of considerable charm, on the edge of Hampstead Heath. There she lives happily and dies early, and there her more or less turbulent descendants find peace or troubles according to their temperaments. Miss Tiltman does this kind of thing richly and skilfully.

BEGGAR'S FIDDLE (Wingate. 12s. 6d.) is that comparative rarity, a book with a constant background of music and musicians and, although a great part of it is set against the flat landscape and wide skies of Essex, it is by no means an "earthy" or even a rural novel. Miss Freda Lingstrom writes shrewdly and sometimes tenderly of both that countryside and of the characters she has chosen to people it.

THE MOUNTAIN LION (Faber and Faber. 8s. 6d.) is also a book of perception, but I found Miss Jean Stafford's story of unhappy childhood and violent adolescence extremely depressing. It is not the American idiom, now so familiar in books and plays and films, but the brutality of the imagery that repels.

HENRI MURGER, KING OF THE BOHEMIANS

The "Janitor's Brat," who Created a Legend

One hundred years ago appeared the collected sketches, *Scènes de la Vie de Bohème*. This book described the fortunes and misfortunes, the loves, studies, amusements and sufferings of a group of impecunious students, artists and men of letters. In 1849 it was arranged for the stage and was a triumphant success, and it afterwards formed the basis of Puccini's opera, *La Bohème*. The creator of this masterpiece was Henri Murger, Paris-born son of a German concierge, who became a veritable king of the Latin Quarter, a leader of the Bohemian clique that included such personalities as Monselet, Privat d'Anglemont, and not least, Champfleury, whose extraordinary energy, we are told, permitted indulgence in everything, including sleep. In THE LEGEND OF THE LATIN QUARTER (W. H. Allen. 10s. 6d.) Arthur Moss and Evelyn Marvel tell the story of Murger and his times, the "janitor's brat," as he called himself, who received the red ribbon of the Legion of Honour for his services to Literature, and in Mimi and Rodolphe, Musette and Marcel, created characters who are as real and alive to-day as they were in the 1840's. This is a book full of good anecdotes and strange, colourful personalities and, above all, it exudes atmosphere. Many will enjoy the story of Beaudelaire, the lean and morbid poet, who, while his contemporaries clamoured against France's citizen King, brandished a musket and uttered his own highly individualistic war-cry as he advanced to the barricades yelling for the head of his mother's second husband.

Nine thousand years before the birth of Solon men sang that in the Atlantic Ocean there lay an island called Atlantis, and that once its armies overran the lands bordering the Mediterranean. Finally, the seas overwhelmed Atlantis, and so perished a civilisation which some aver was an earthly paradise. Legends abound regarding Atlantis, mostly harking back to the days of Plato, but for the most part all is surmise regarding this lost continent. In THE ATLANTIS MYTH (Faber and Faber. 10s. 6d.) H. S. Bellamy brings together a remarkable body of evidence and hearsay. Whether he really adds anything to the findings of Voltaire, Montaigne and Buffon is open to doubt.

In the realm of publishing crime remains a best-seller, but originality is sometimes lacking in its purveyors. This is rather the case with PUZZLE FOR PILGRIMS (Gollancz. 8s. 6d.), a new detective story by Patrick Quentin. The question is, who killed Sally and Jake? Was it Martin, Marietta or Iris? Mr. Quentin provides compensation for the triteness of his theme by setting his dark deeds and this tale of unnatural relationships against a Mexican background of carnivals, fiestas and bull-fights. A much more notable effort comes from J. F. Bardin, who in THE LAST OF PHILIP BANTER (Gollancz. 8s. 6d.), provides in the broad daylight of New York more mystery, suspense and horror than most authors can conjure up under cover of darkness. Philip Banter is a Manhattan advertising agent. He suffers from alcoholic blackouts; he hears voices and drinks to drown the noise; and with terrifying regularity he finds on his office desk typed confessions which, with very fair accuracy, foretell his misdemeanours. Not until the last chapter do we discover who is the author of these uncanny forecasts, if Philip Banter is really mad or is being driven mad by someone else. Mr. Bardin maintains the excitement to the final chilling page.

For Crime Club readers who insist upon their tally of corpses, DEATH IN SHALLOW WATER (Collins. 8s. 6d.), by Miles Burton, runs true to requirements. Four people are drowned in shallow water. All could have died accidentally, but there are financial circumstances that link the four deaths. This is a tale of dreary monotony on the part of the murderer. DEATH BEFORE DINNER (Collins. 8s. 6d.) is another Crime Club book. The author, E. C. R. Lorac, builds his story round the murder in a London restaurant of Elias Browne, the globe-trotter. Needless to say, Inspector Macdonald eventually wins through.

Sydney Horler does not have to rush his fences, but from the leisurely start, with its setting in the atmosphere of a London club, the reader knows full well that his practised hand will build up the excitement to the usual horrific climax. In THE HOUSE WITH THE LIGHT (Hodder and Stoughton. 8s. 6d.) Mr. Horler founds his story on the old legend of the luring of ships on to the Cornish rocks by false lights.

BRITISH WINDMILLS AND WATERMILLS (Collins. 5s.) is a new addition to the "Britain in Pictures" Series. The author, Charles Skilton, has explored and sketched many mills in all their variety of architecture and mechanism.

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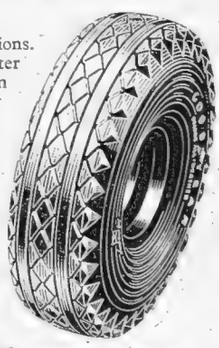

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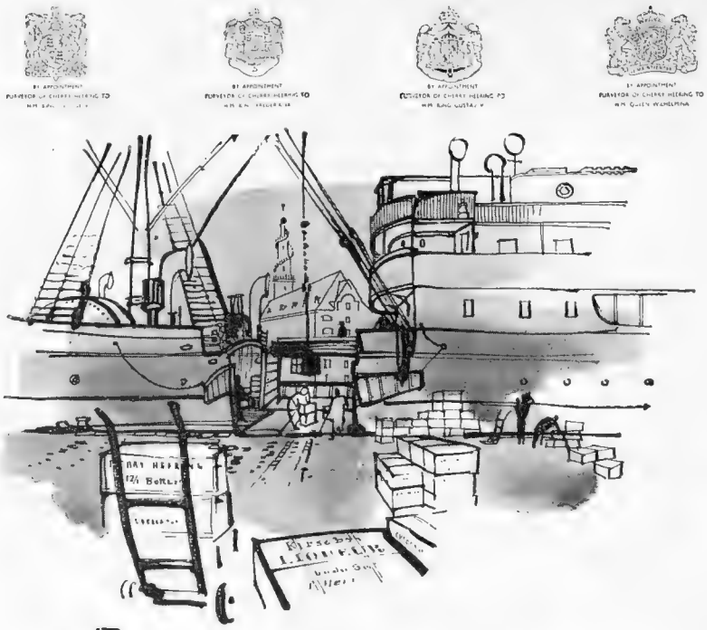

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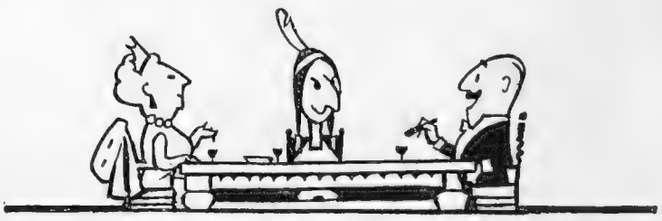

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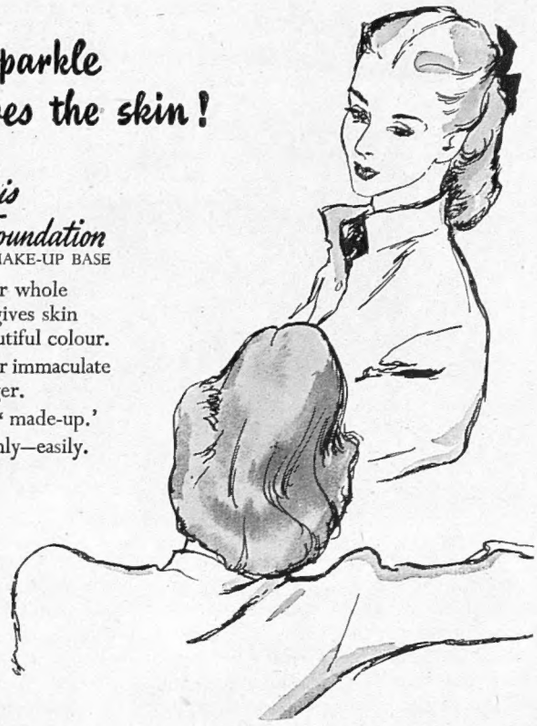

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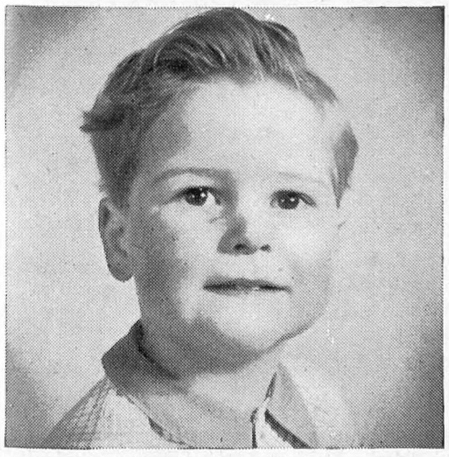

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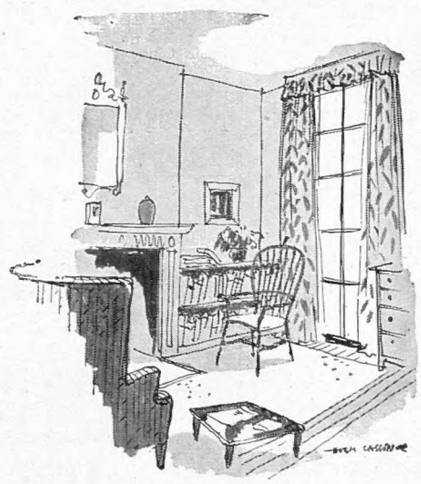

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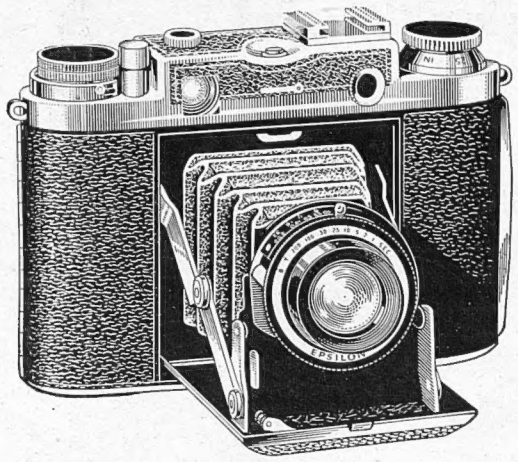

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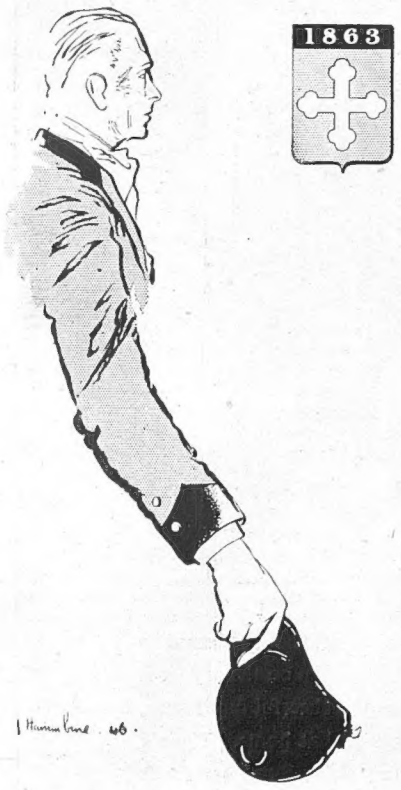

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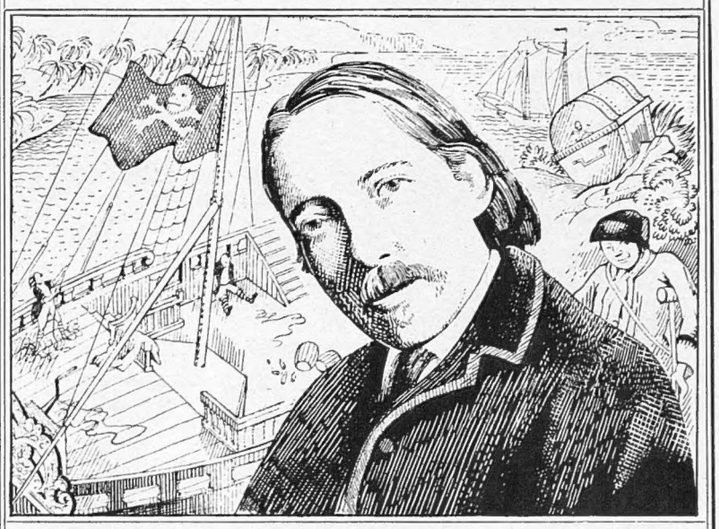

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to his father and mother

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